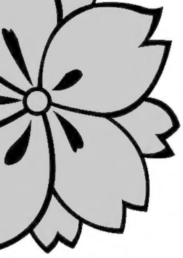
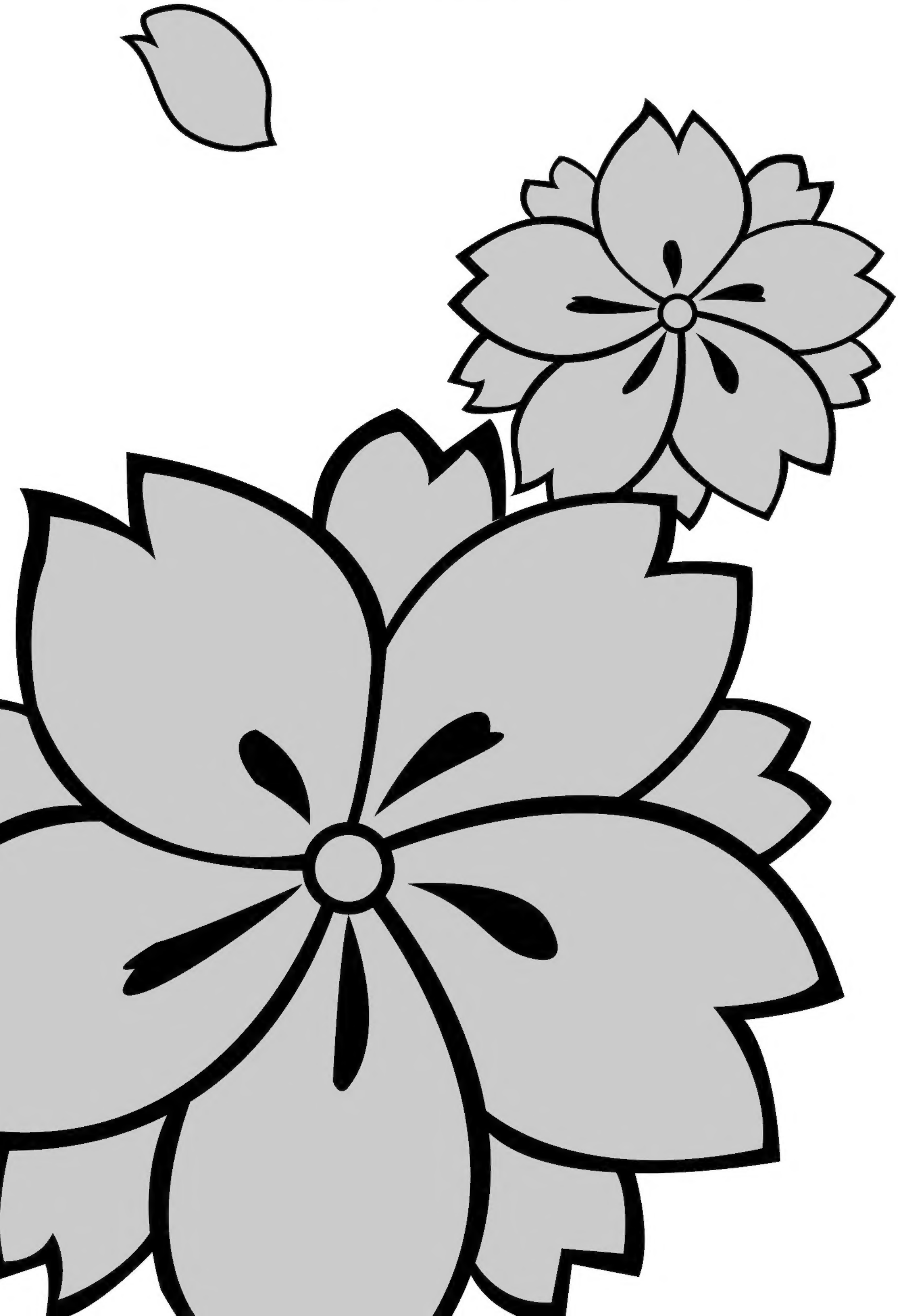
18

Yozakura Quartet

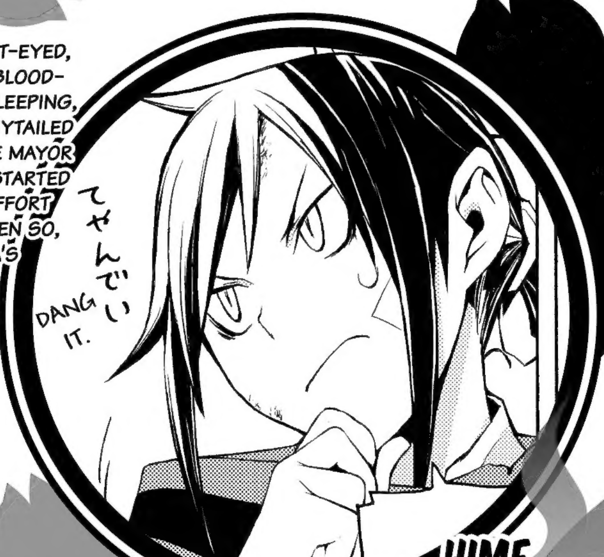
Suzuhito Yasuda



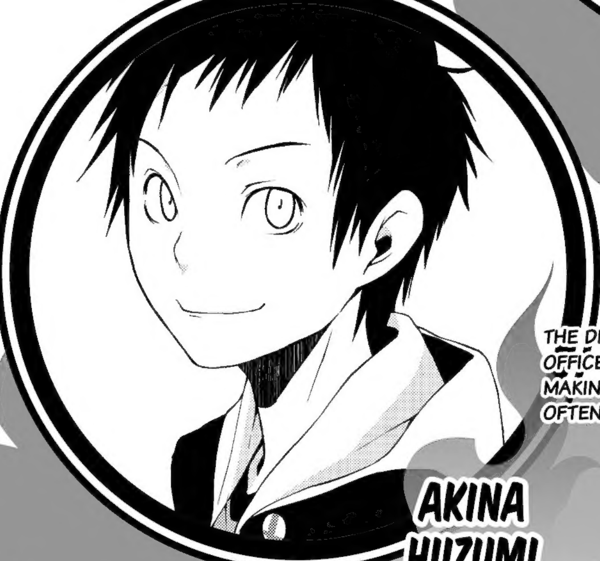
YOZAKURA QUARTET 18



A RAMBUNCTIOUS, MOODY, SLANT-EYED, NOODLE/COMEDY-LOVING, LOW-BLOOD-PRESSURED, HEALTHY, SOUND-SLEEPING, EARLY-RISING, SCARF-CLAD, PONYTAILED DEMON HIGH SCHOOLER AND THE MAYOR OF SAKURASHIN. LATELY, SHE'S STARTED LEARNING HOW TO COOK IN AN EFFORT TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT. EVEN SO, IT SEEMS SHE STILL LOVES AKINA'S COOKING THE MOST.


てやんでい
DANG IT.

HIME YARIZAKURA



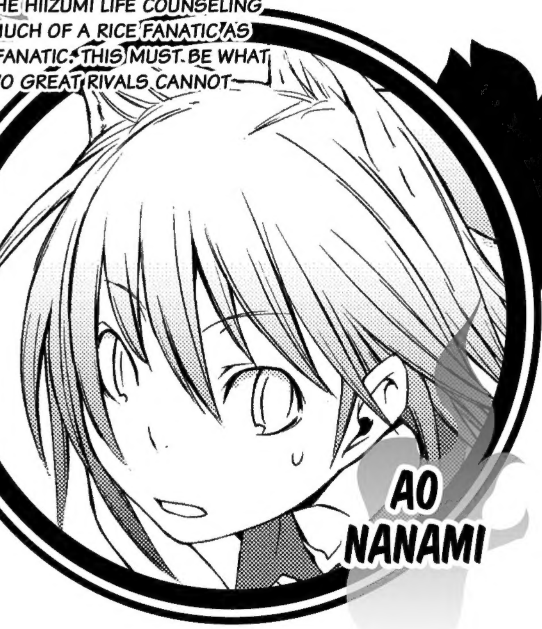
THE DIRECTOR OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. AS ABOUT 20% OF HIS WORKDAY GOES INTO MAKING FOOD FOR HIME AND HIS EMPLOYEES, HE'S OFTEN IN THE OFFICE VERY LATE.

AKINA HIIZUMI

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

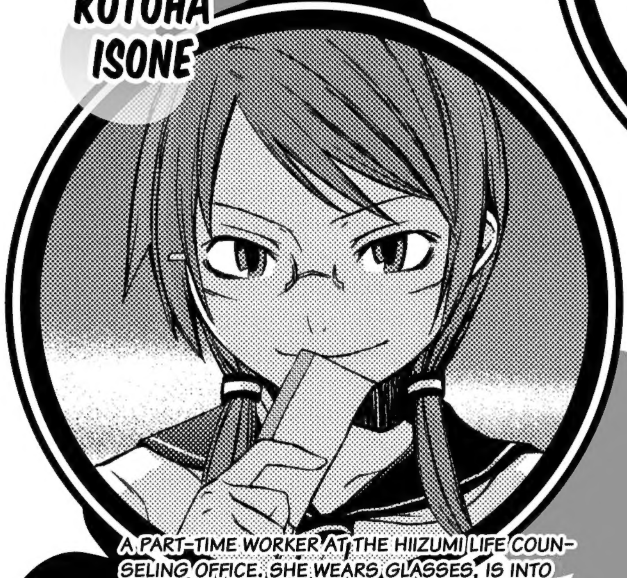
YOZAKURA QUARTET

CHARACTER PROFILE



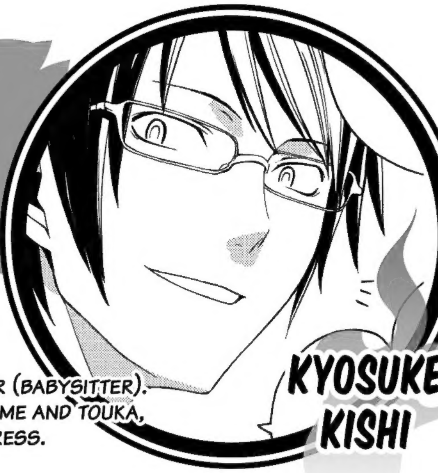
AO NANAMI

AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE'S AS MUCH OF A RICE FANATIC AS HIME IS A NOODLE FANATIC. THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY MEAN BY "TWO GREAT RIVALS CANNOT COEXIST."



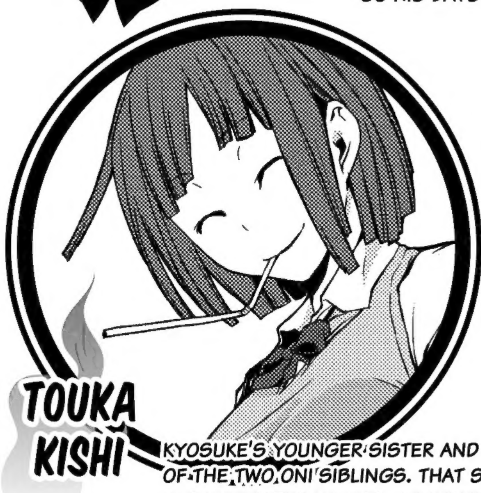
KOTOHA ISONE

A PART-TIME WORKER AT THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE WEARS GLASSES, IS INTO GIRLS, AND HAS BIG BOOBS, AMONG OTHER CLICHÉS, BUT SHE ALSO HAS THE MOST REFRESHING PERSONALITY.



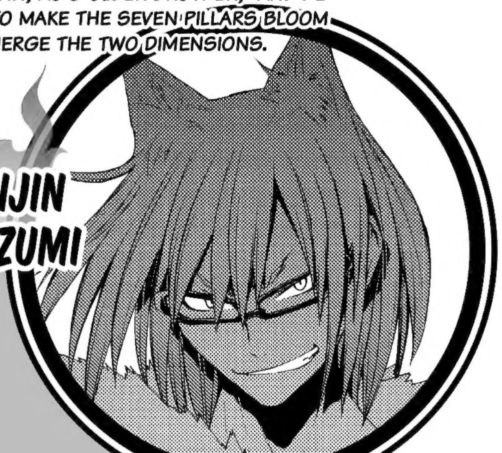
KYOSUKE KISHI

HIME'S ASSISTANT AND OVERSEER (BABYSITTER). HE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF BOTH HIME AND TOUKA, SO HIS DAYS ARE FILLED WITH STRESS.



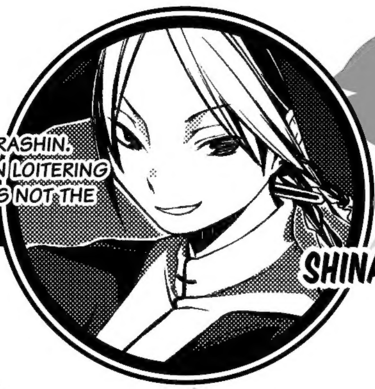
TOUKA KISHI

KYOSUKE'S YOUNGER SISTER AND THE FAIRER HALF OF THE TWO ONI SIBLINGS. THAT SAID, SHE LEADS THE MOST NORMAL LIFE, AS BEFITTING A HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL. SHE USED TO DO ARCHERY, BUT NOW PRACTICES AIKIDO.



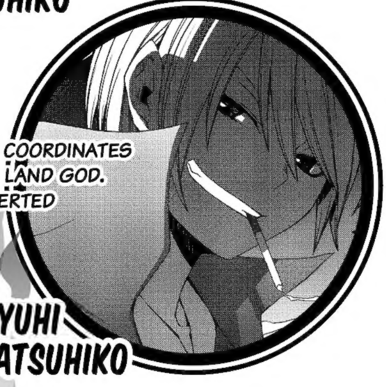
ENJIN HIIZUMI

A DESCENDANT OF ENYOU HIIZUMI. HE TOOK OVER THE BODY OF GIN, AO'S OLDER BROTHER, AND HE IS PLANNING TO MAKE THE SEVEN PILLARS BLOOM IN ORDER TO MERGE THE TWO DIMENSIONS.



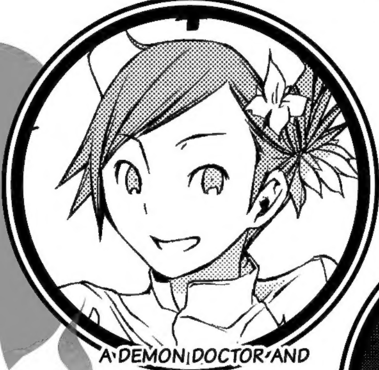
YAE SHINATSUHIKO

THE LAND GOD OF SAKURASHIN. SHE CAN OFTEN BE SEEN LOITERING AROUND TOWN, SO SHE'S NOT THE MOST DIGNIFIED DEITY.



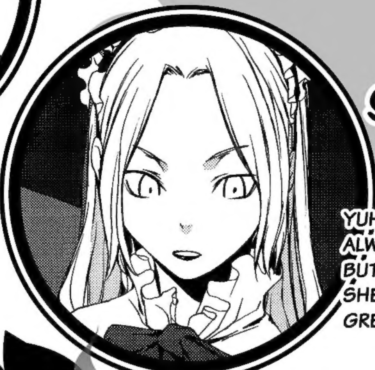
YUHI SHINATSUHIKO

THE DISTRICT MAYOR WHO COORDINATES THE TOWNS. HE IS ALSO A LAND GOD. DEEP DOWN, HE IS A PERVERTED OLD MAN.



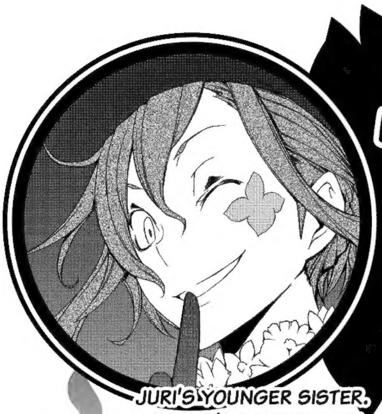
JURI

A DEMON DOCTOR AND TOWN ICON. SHE HAS BEEN ABSTAINING FROM SHOW BUSINESS LATELY.



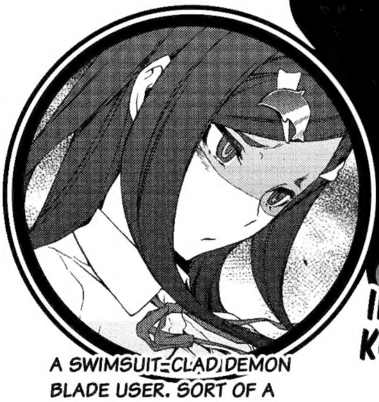
MARIABELL

YUHI'S SECRETARY. SHE IS ALWAYS ORDERED TO COSPLAY, BUT SHE SEEMS TO ENJOY IT. SHE IS ALSO JURI'S GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER.



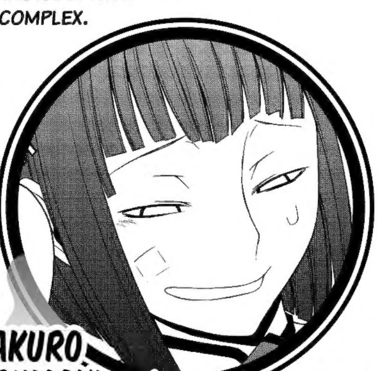
LILA

JURI'S YOUNGER SISTER. A WITCH/MAGICIAN WITH A SISTER COMPLEX.



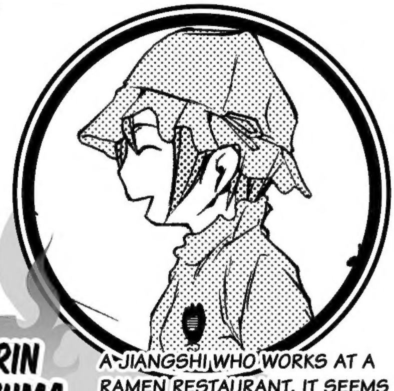
IRUKA KUJOIN

A SWIMSUIT-CLAD DEMON BLADE USER. SORT OF A SPACE CASE, BUT SUPER STRONG.



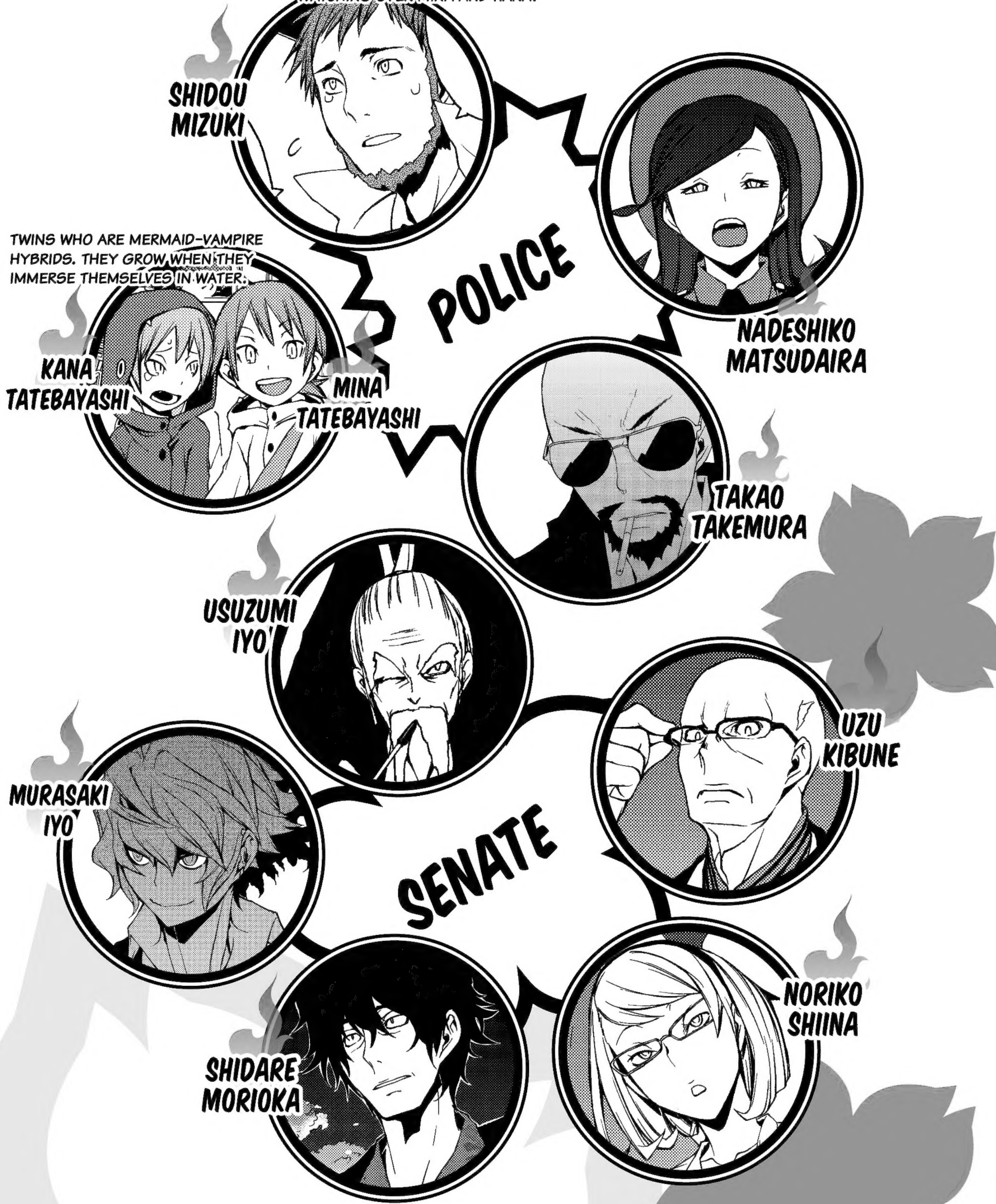
ZAKURO KURUMAKI

RIN'S FORMER MASTER AND A NECROMANCER, SHE ATTACKED SAKURASHIN IN ORDER TO TAKE BACK RIN BUT WAS THWARTED AND REFORMED.



RIN AZUMA

A JIANGSHI WHO WORKS AT A RAMEN RESTAURANT. IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ALWAYS SLACKING OFF, BUT SHE'S SURPRISINGLY DILIGENT. WAS KIDNAPPED BUT RETURNED SAFELY.



HE IS A COP, BUT EVERYONE TENDS TO FORGET THAT FACT. HE IS BUSY WATCHING OVER MINA AND KANA.

TWINS WHO ARE MERMAID-VAMPIRE HYBRIDS. THEY GROW WHEN THEY IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN WATER.

SHIDOU MIZUKI
NADESHIKO MATSUDAIRA
POLICE
KANA TATEBAYASHI
MINA TATEBAYASHI
TAKAO TAKEMURA
USUZUMI IYO
UZU KIBUNE
MURASAKI IYO
SENATE
NORIKO SHIINA
SHIDARE MORIOKA

OUTLINE

TOMOE SAID THE QUARTET WOULD LOSE ONE OF ITS MEMBERS, BUT WHO THAT MIGHT BE, ONLY THE GODS KNOW. WHILE THE GANG BUMBLES ABOUT IN BLISSFUL IGNORANCE, THE NEW GIRL IN TOWN PAYS THEM A VISIT...

YOZAKURA QUARTET

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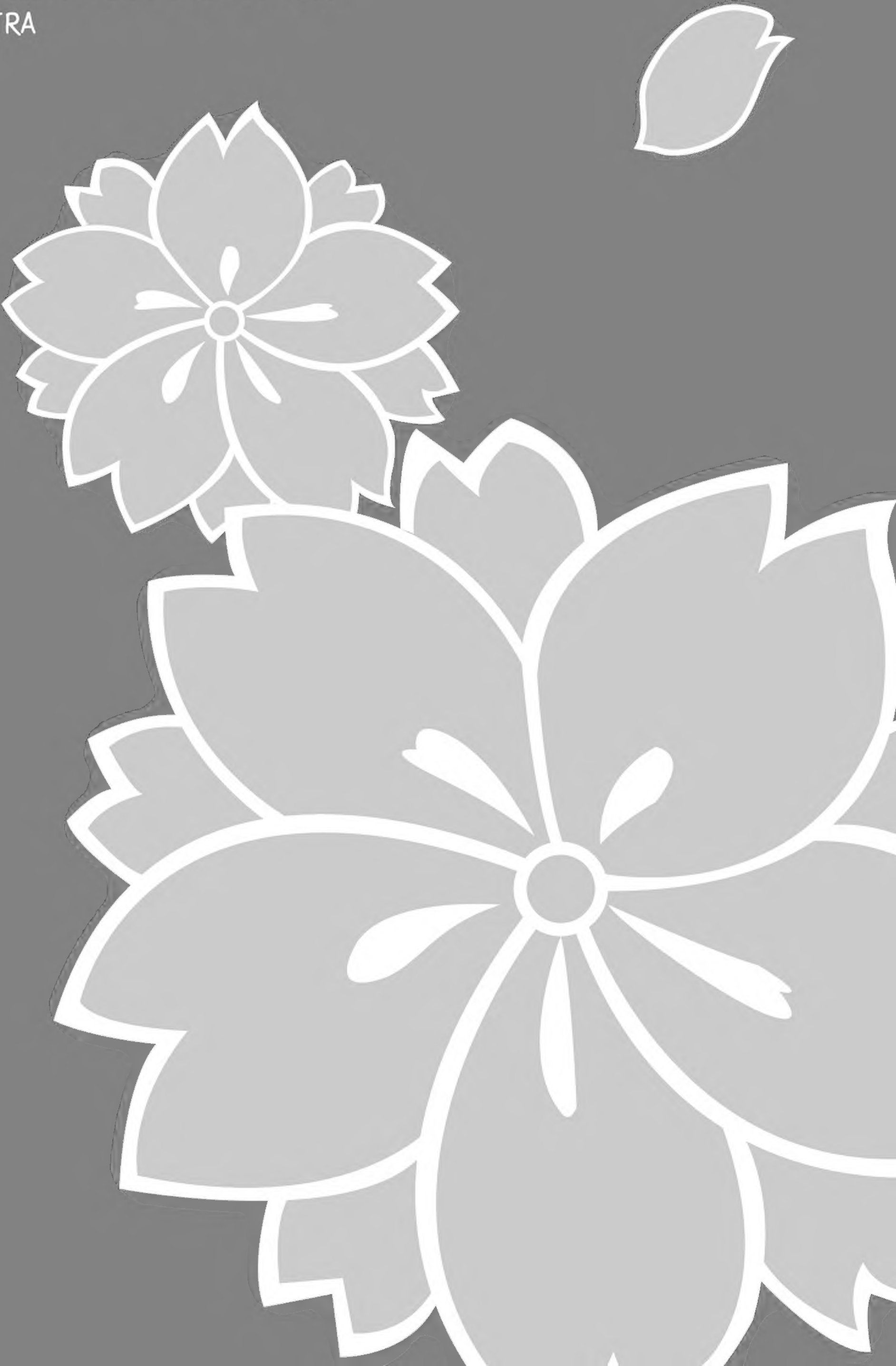
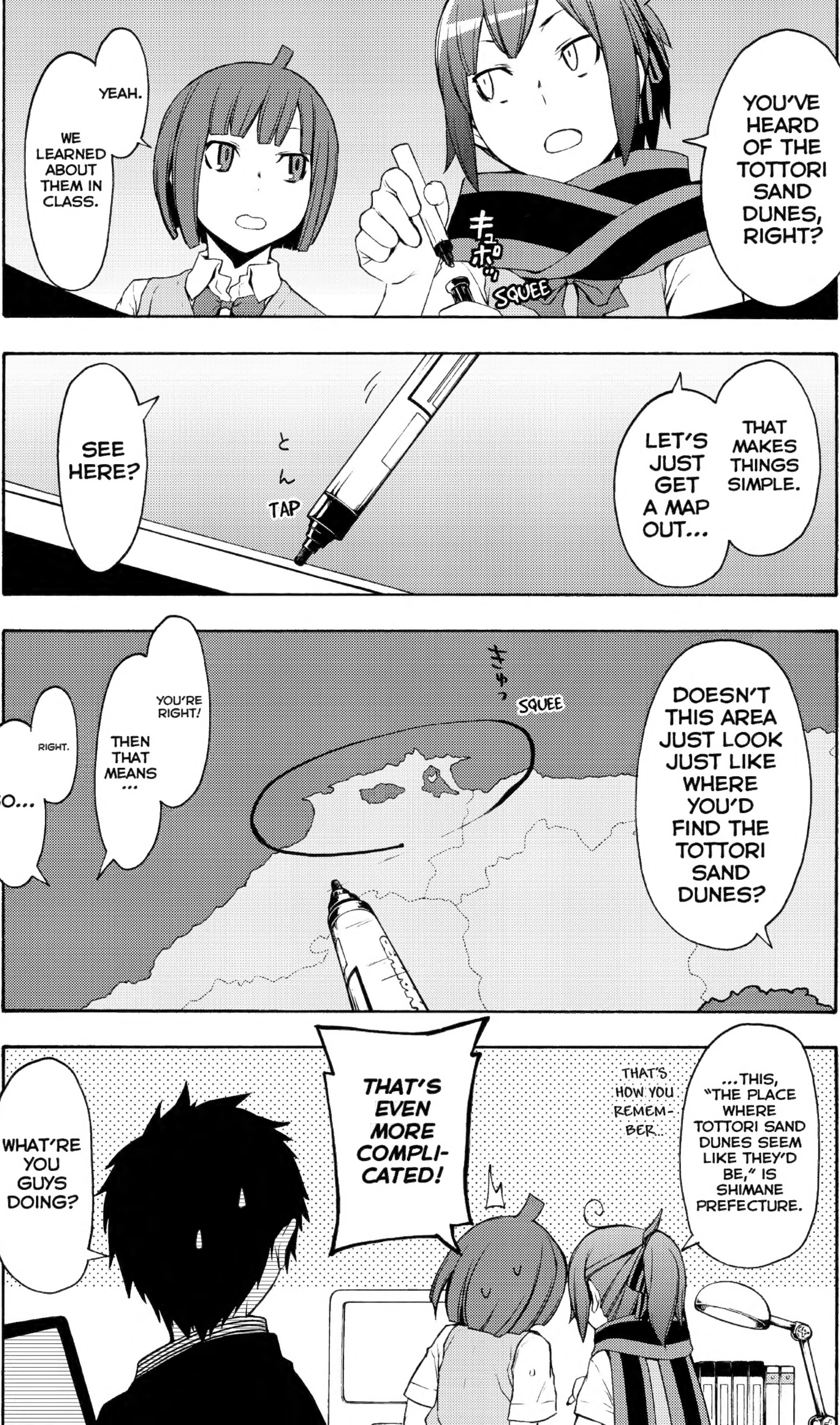
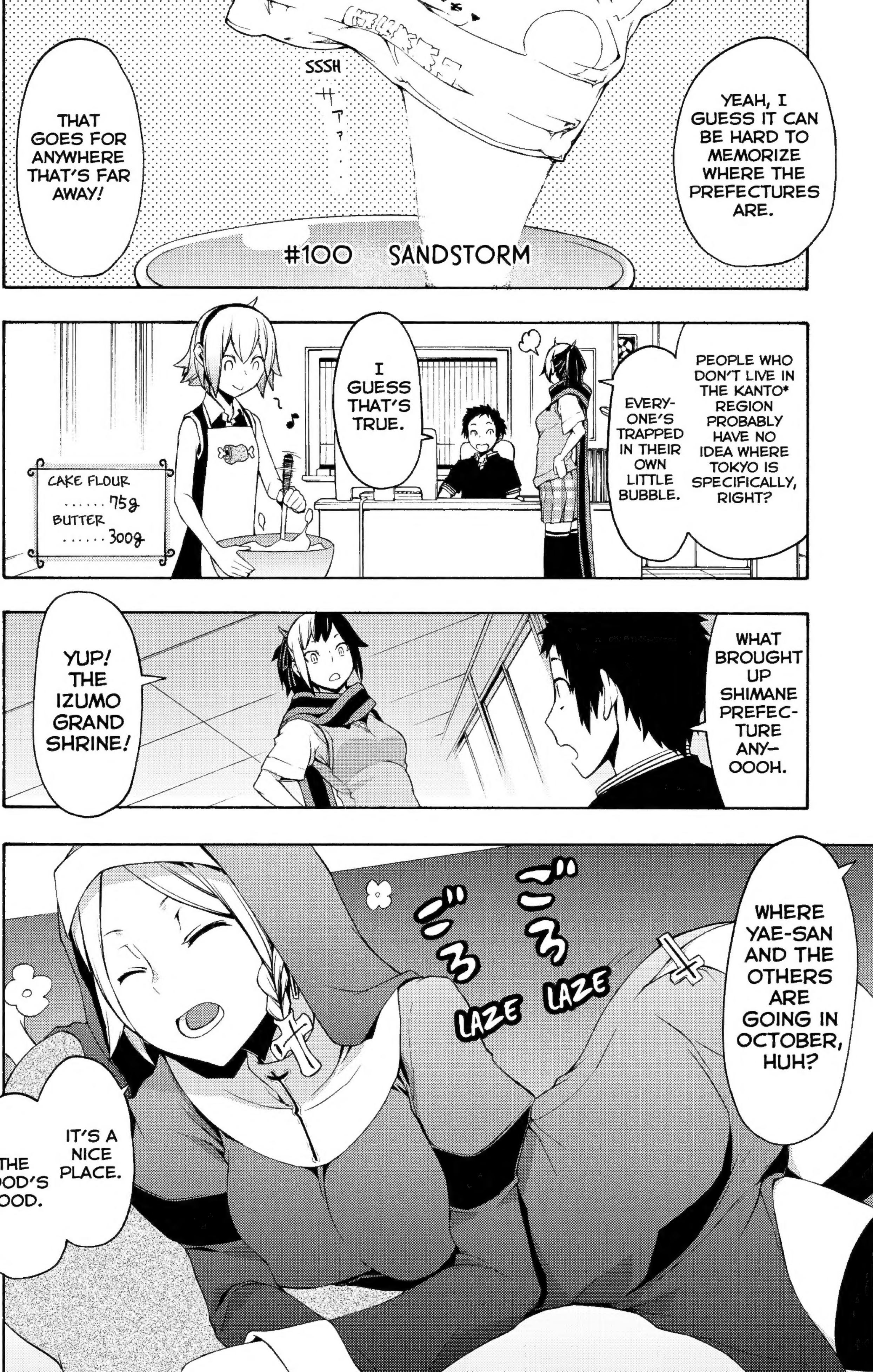
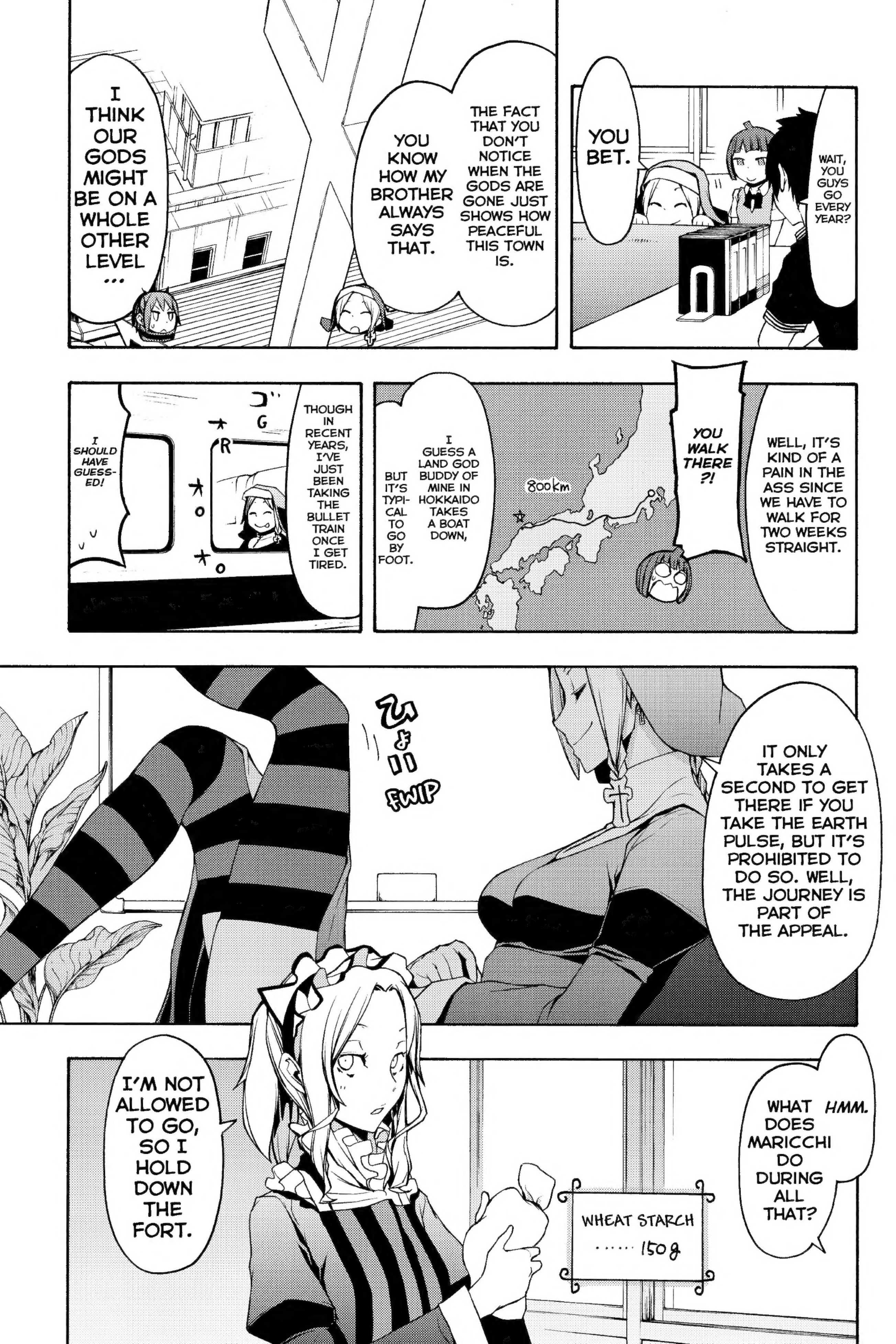
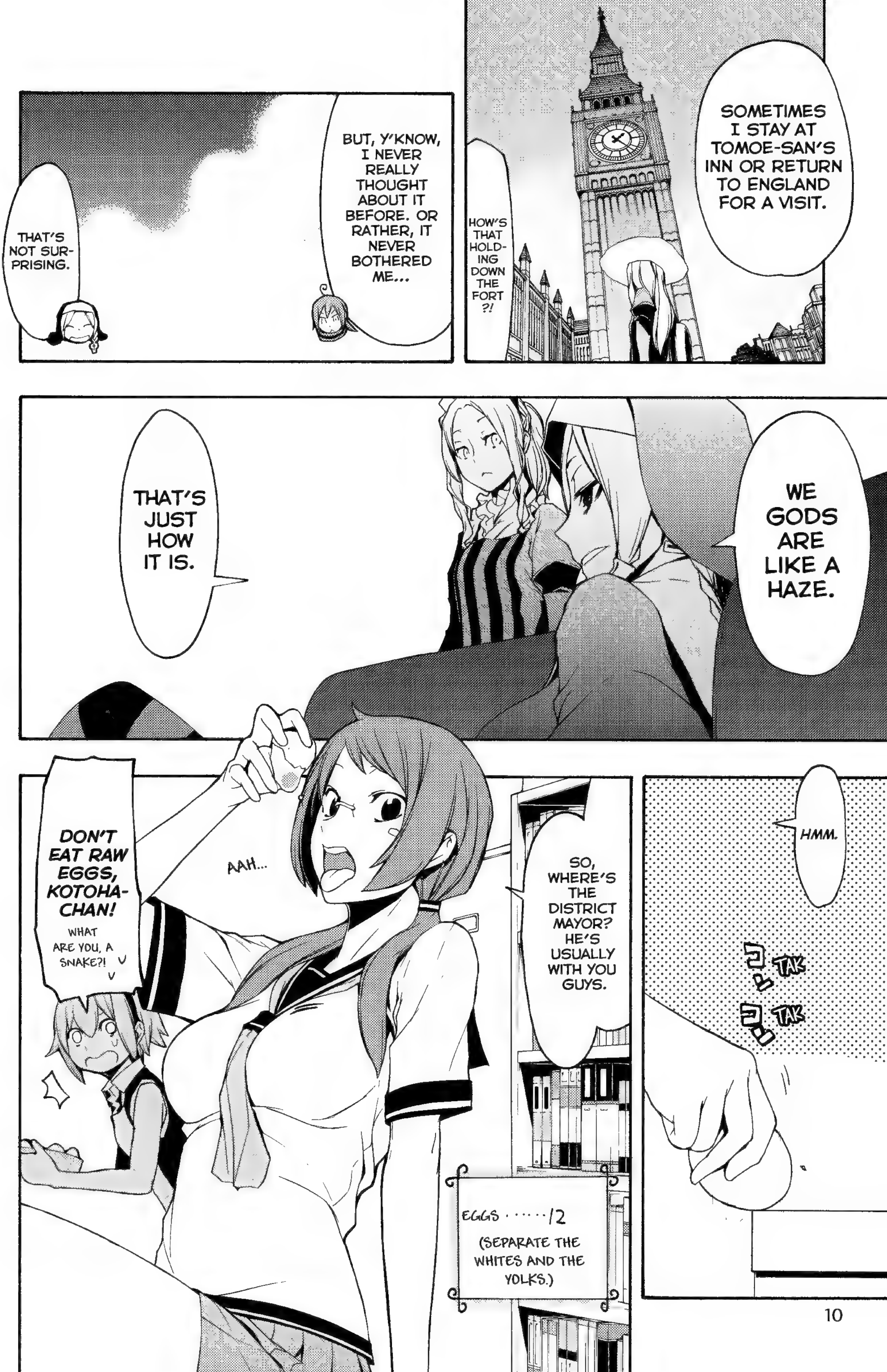


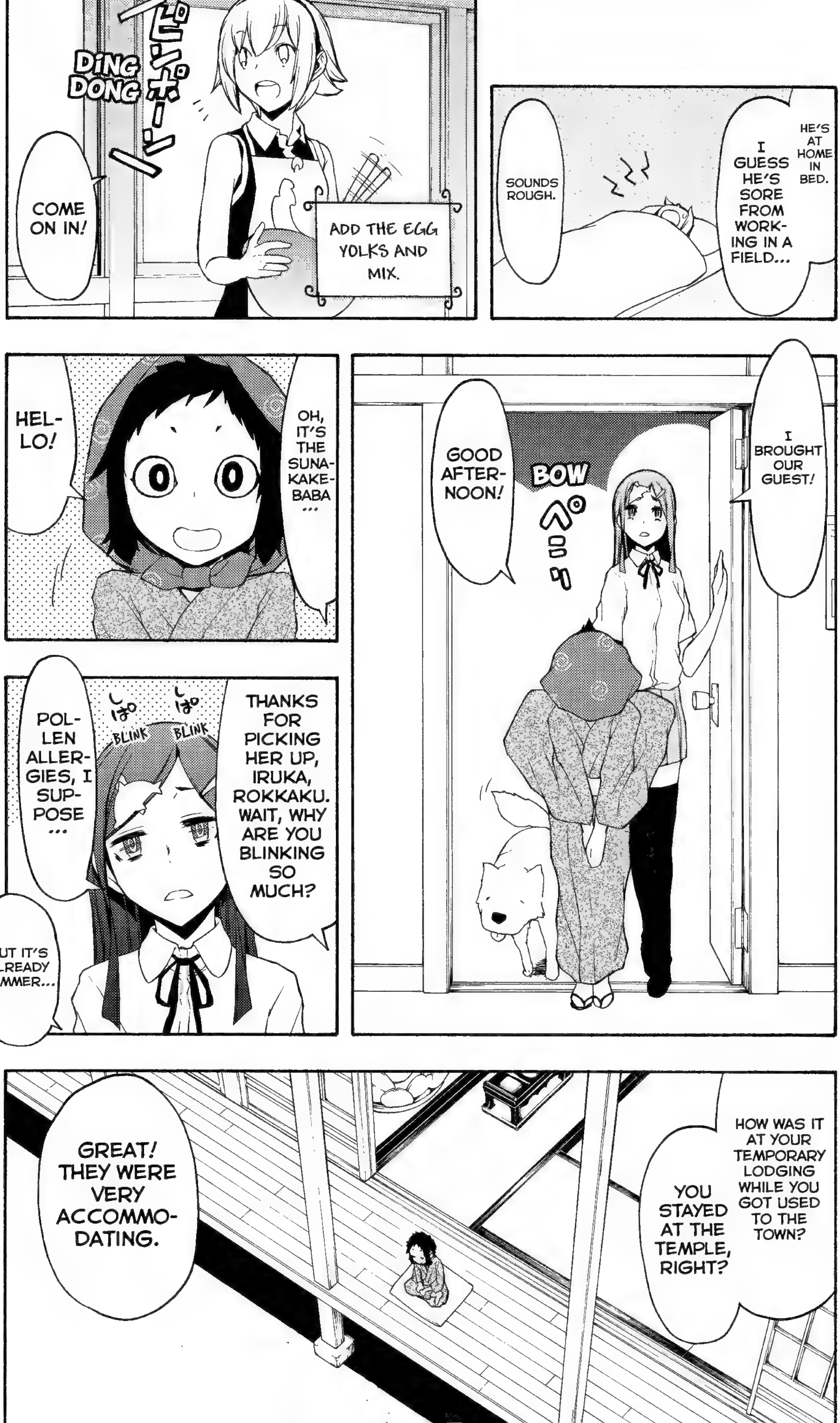

YOU'VE HEARD OF THE TOTTORI SAND DUNES, RIGHT?
キュポッ
SQUEE
YEAH.
WE LEARNED ABOUT THEM IN CLASS.
THAT MAKES THINGS SIMPLE.
LET'S JUST GET A MAP OUT...
とん
TAP
SEE HERE?
DOESN'T THIS AREA JUST LOOK JUST LIKE WHERE YOU'D FIND THE TOTTORI SAND DUNES?
きゅっ
SQUEE
YOU'RE RIGHT!
THEN THAT MEANS...
RIGHT.
SO...
...THIS, "THE PLACE WHERE TOTTORI SAND DUNES SEEM LIKE THEY'D BE," IS SHIMANE PREFECTURE.
THAT'S HOW YOU REMEMBER...
THAT'S EVEN MORE COMPLICATED!
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?

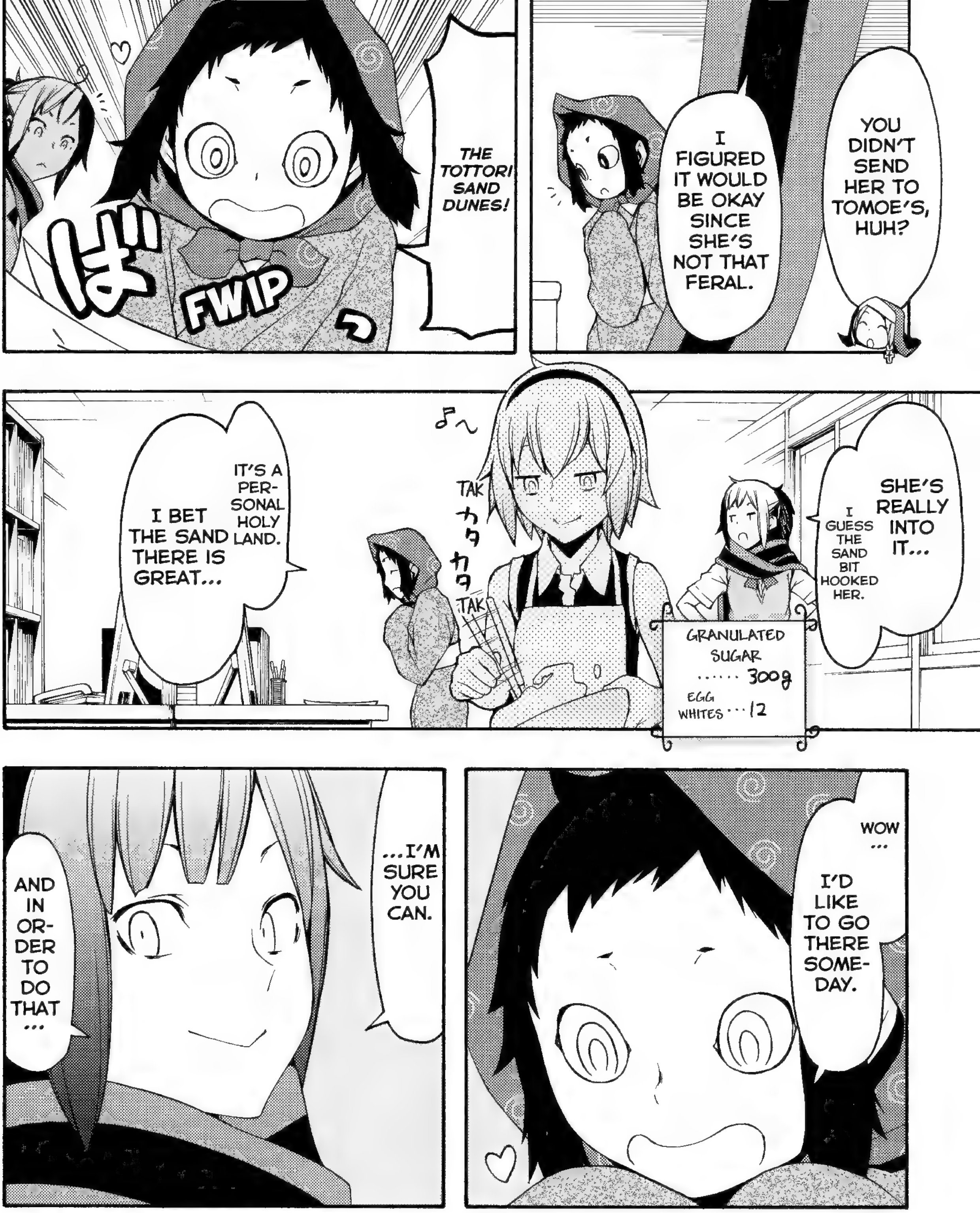
#100 SANDSTORM


YEAH, I GUESS IT CAN BE HARD TO MEMORIZE WHERE THE PREFECTURES ARE.
SSSH
サァ…
THAT GOES FOR ANYWHERE THAT'S FAR AWAY!
PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIVE IN THE KANTO* REGION PROBABLY HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TOKYO IS SPECIFICALLY, RIGHT?
EVERYONE'S TRAPPED IN THEIR OWN LITTLE BUBBLE.
I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
CAKE FLOUR 75g
BUTTER 300g
WHAT BROUGHT UP SHIMANE PREFECTURE ANY—OOOH.
YUP! THE IZUMO GRAND SHRINE!
WHERE YAE-SAN AND THE OTHERS ARE GOING IN OCTOBER, HUH?
ごろ LAZE
ごろ LAZE
IT'S A NICE PLACE.
THE FOOD'S GOOD.

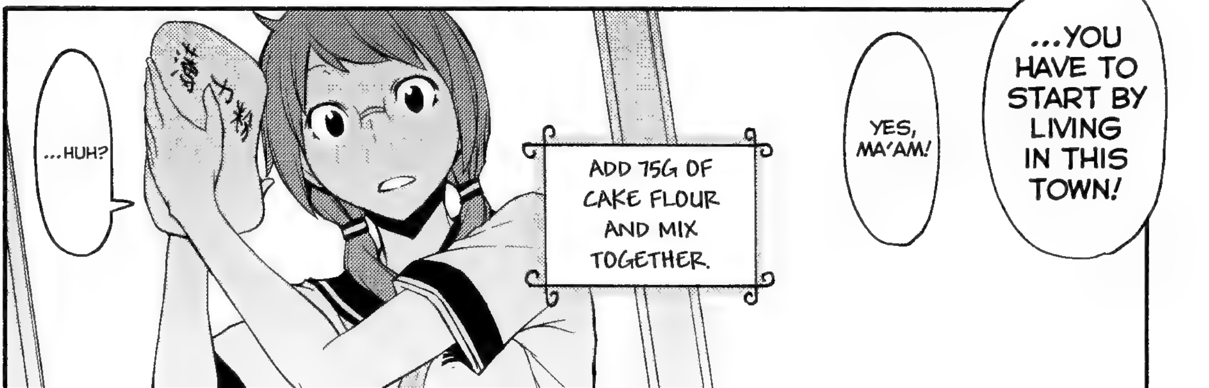

WAIT, YOU GUYS GO EVERY YEAR?
YOU BET.
THE FACT THAT YOU DON'T NOTICE WHEN THE GODS ARE GONE JUST SHOWS HOW PEACEFUL THIS TOWN IS.
YOU KNOW HOW MY BROTHER ALWAYS SAYS THAT.
I THINK OUR GODS MIGHT BE ON A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL…
WELL, IT'S KIND OF A PAIN IN THE ASS SINCE WE HAVE TO WALK FOR TWO WEEKS STRAIGHT.
YOU WALK THERE?!
800km
I GUESS A LAND GOD BUDDY OF MINE IN HOKKAIDO TAKES A BOAT DOWN,
BUT IT'S TYPICAL TO GO BY FOOT.
THOUGH IN RECENT YEARS, I'VE JUST BEEN TAKING THE BULLET TRAIN ONCE I GET TIRED.
ゴ G R o o
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!
ひょい FWIP
IT ONLY TAKES A SECOND TO GET THERE IF YOU TAKE THE EARTH PULSE, BUT IT'S PROHIBITED TO DO SO. WELL, THE JOURNEY IS PART OF THE APPEAL.
HMM.
WHAT DOES MARICCHI DO DURING ALL THAT?
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO GO, SO I HOLD DOWN THE FORT.
WHEAT STARCH …… 150g

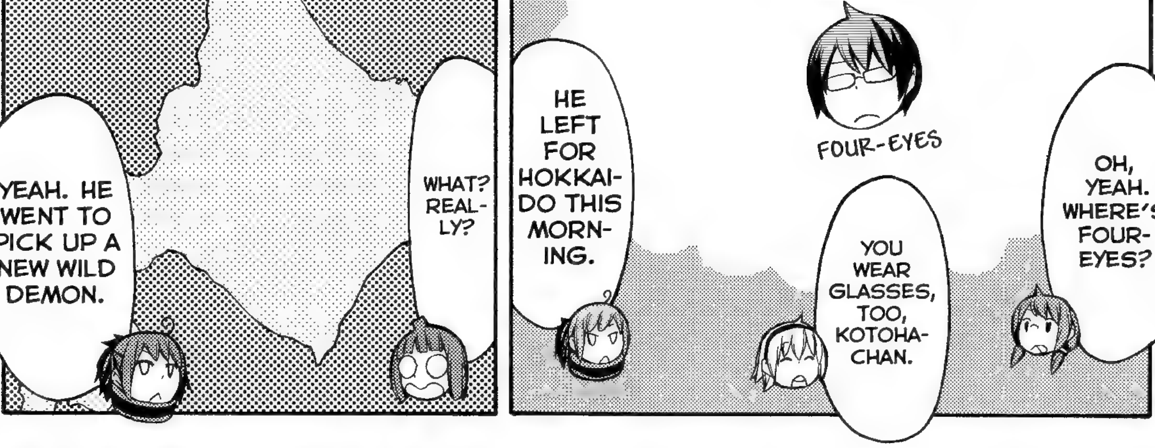

SOMETIMES I STAY AT TOMOE-SAN'S INN OR RETURN TO ENGLAND FOR A VISIT.
HOW'S THAT HOLDING DOWN THE FORT?!
BUT, Y'KNOW, I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE. OR RATHER, IT NEVER BOTHERED ME...
THAT'S NOT SURPRISING.
WE GODS ARE LIKE A HAZE.
THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.
HMM.
コッ TAK
コッ TAK
SO, WHERE'S THE DISTRICT MAYOR? HE'S USUALLY WITH YOU GUYS.
AAH...
DON'T EAT RAW EGGS, KOTOHA-CHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU, A SNAKE?!
EGGS ······12
(SEPARATE THE WHITES AND THE YOLKS.)

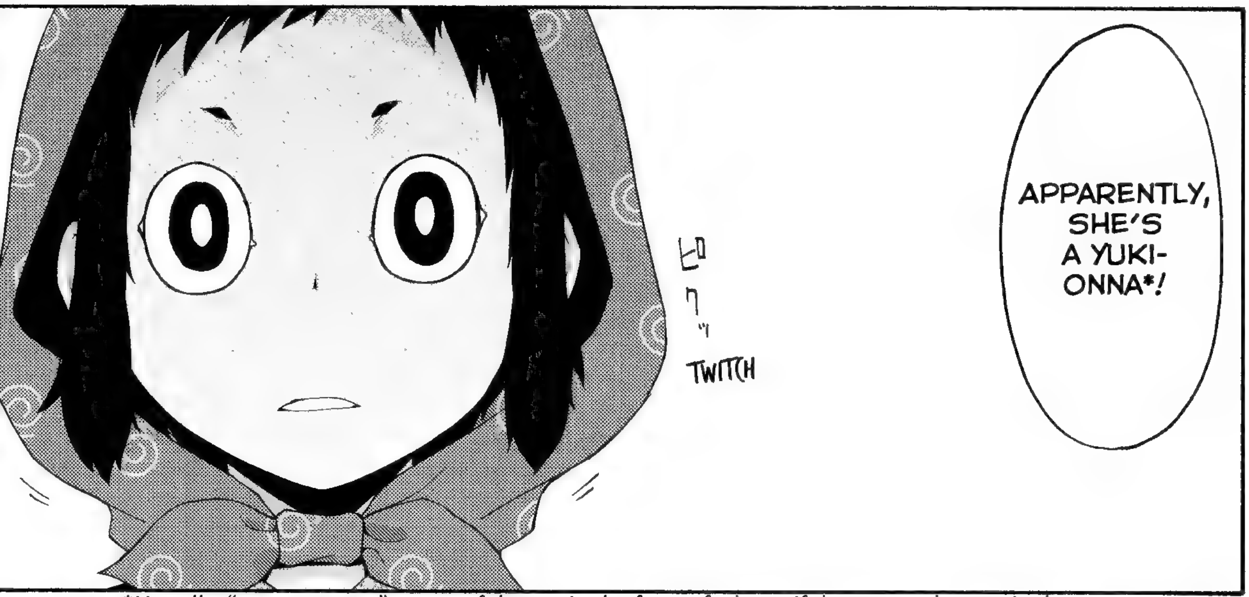

HE'S AT HOME IN BED.
I GUESS HE'S SORE FROM WORKING IN A FIELD...
SOUNDS ROUGH.
ピンポーン
DING DONG
COME ON IN!
ADD THE EGG YOLKS AND MIX.
I BROUGHT OUR GUEST!
GOOD AFTERNOON!
ぺこっ
BOW
OH, IT'S THE SUNAKAKE-BABA...
HELLO!
THANKS FOR PICKING HER UP, IRUKA, ROKKAKU. WAIT, WHY ARE YOU BLINKING SO MUCH?
しぱ BLINK
しぱ BLINK
POLLEN ALLERGIES, I SUPPOSE...
BUT IT'S ALREADY SUMMER...
HOW WAS IT AT YOUR TEMPORARY LODGING WHILE YOU GOT USED TO THE TOWN?
YOU STAYED AT THE TEMPLE, RIGHT?
GREAT! THEY WERE VERY ACCOMMODATING.


YOU DIDN'T SEND HER TO TOMOE'S, HUH?
I FIGURED IT WOULD BE OKAY SINCE SHE'S NOT THAT FERAL.
THE TOTTORI SAND DUNES!
ば
FWIP
っ
SHE'S REALLY INTO IT...
I GUESS THE SAND BIT HOOKED HER.
GRANULATED SUGAR ...... 300g EGG WHITES ...12
TAK カタ カタ TAK
♪～
IT'S A PERSONAL HOLY LAND.
I BET THE SAND THERE IS GREAT...
WOW...
I'D LIKE TO GO THERE SOMEDAY.
...I'M SURE YOU CAN.
AND IN ORDER TO DO THAT...

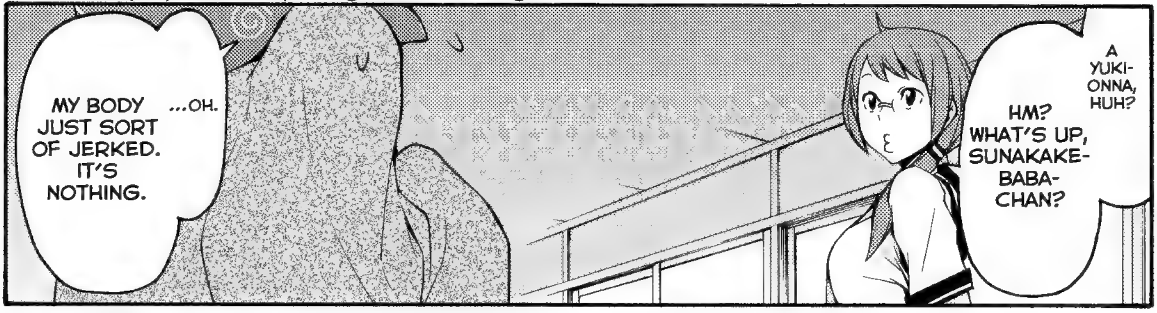
Bag: Cake Flour

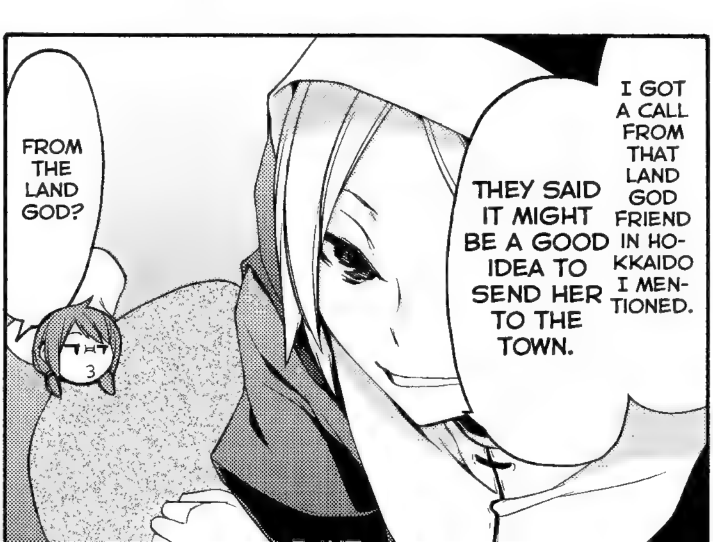

...YOU HAVE TO START BY LIVING IN THIS TOWN!
YES, MA'AM!
ADD 75G OF CAKE FLOUR AND MIX TOGETHER.
薄力粉
...HUH?

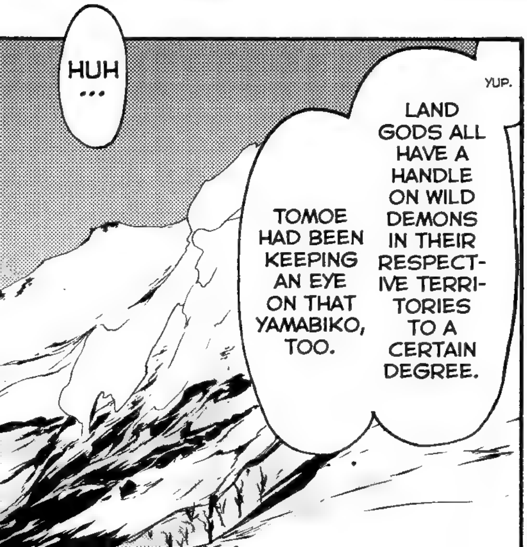

OH, YEAH. WHERE'S FOUR-EYES?
YOU WEAR GLASSES, TOO, KOTOHA-CHAN.
FOUR-EYES
HE LEFT FOR HOKKAIDO THIS MORNING.
WHAT? REALLY?
YEAH. HE WENT TO PICK UP A NEW WILD DEMON.

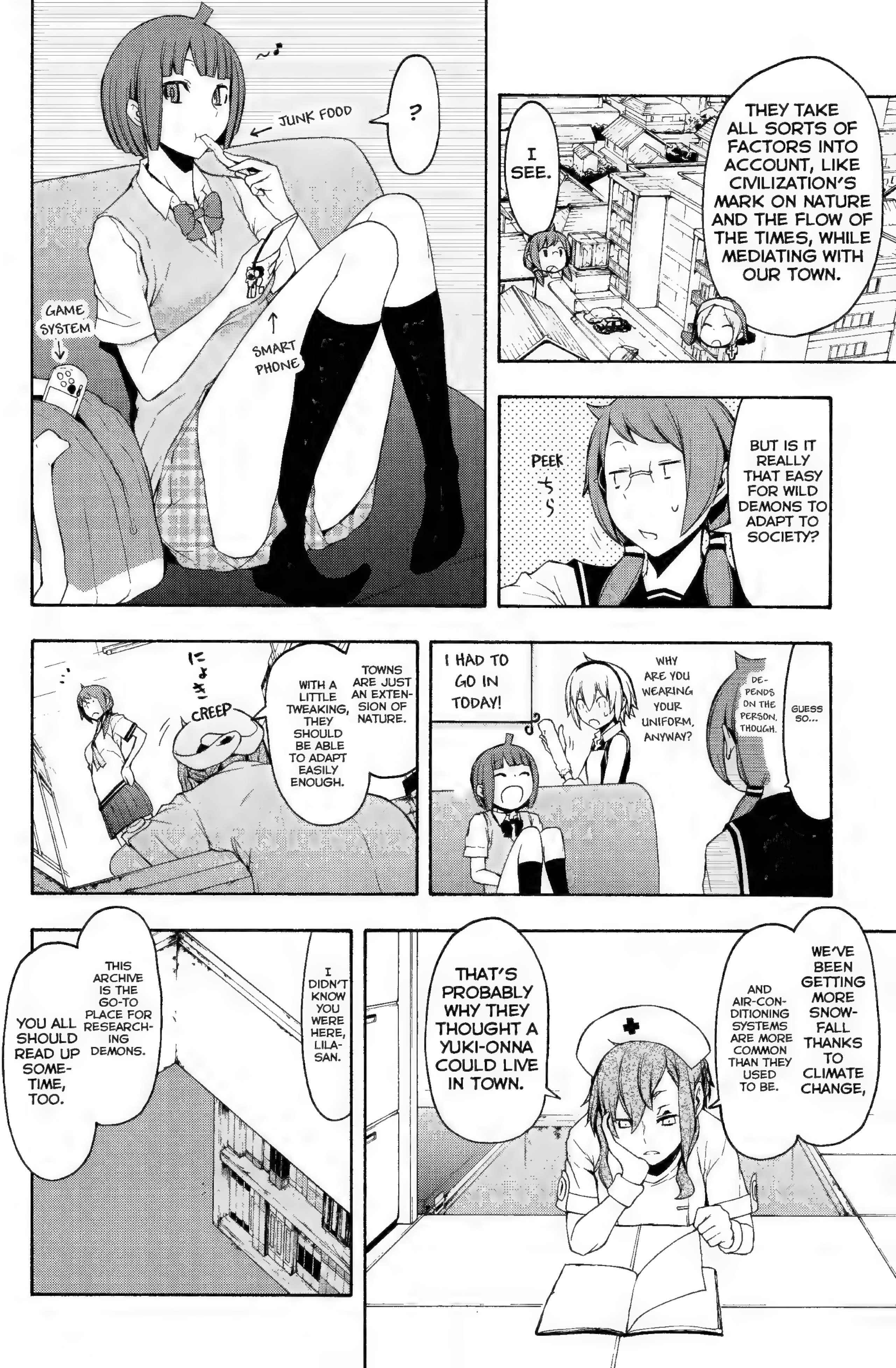

APPARENTLY, SHE'S A YUKI-ONNA*!
ピクッ
TWITCH

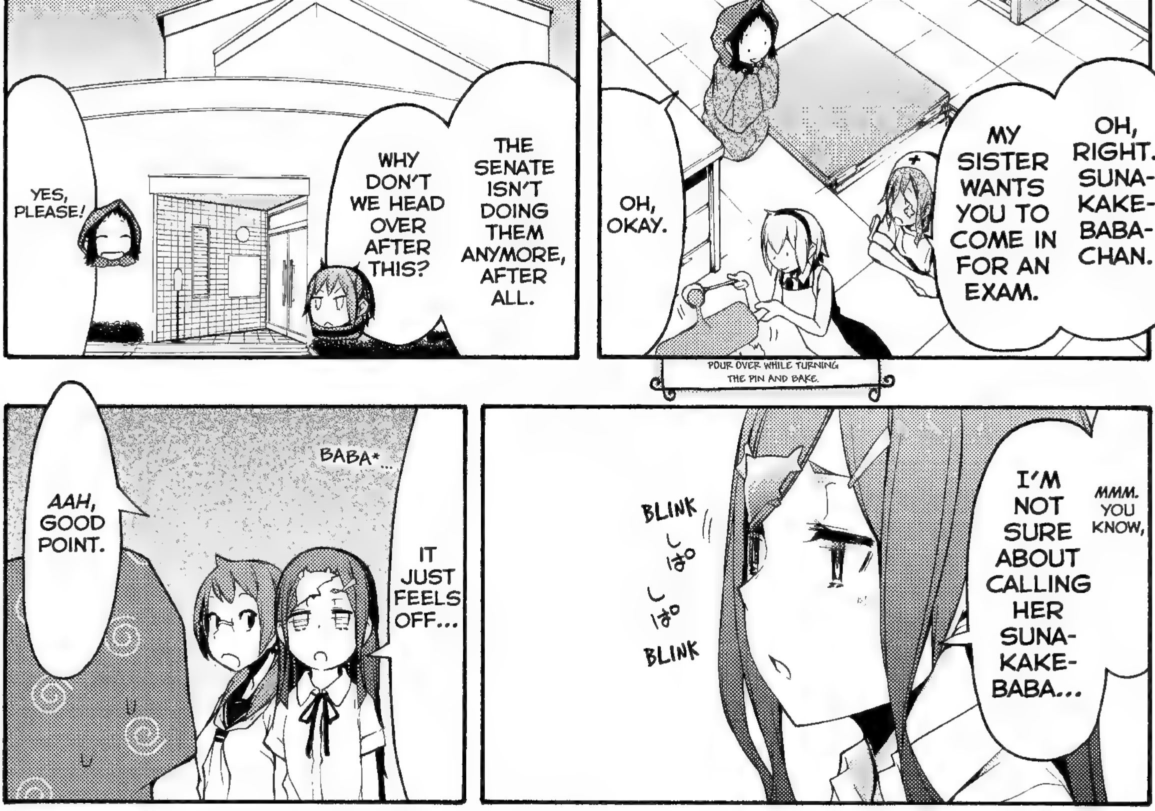
*Literally, "snow woman," a type of demon in the form of a beautiful women who manipulates frost and preys on unsuspecting travelers during snowstorms.


A YUKI-ONNA, HUH?
HM? WHAT'S UP, SUNAKAKE-BABA-CHAN?
...OH.
MY BODY JUST SORT OF JERKED. IT'S NOTHING.

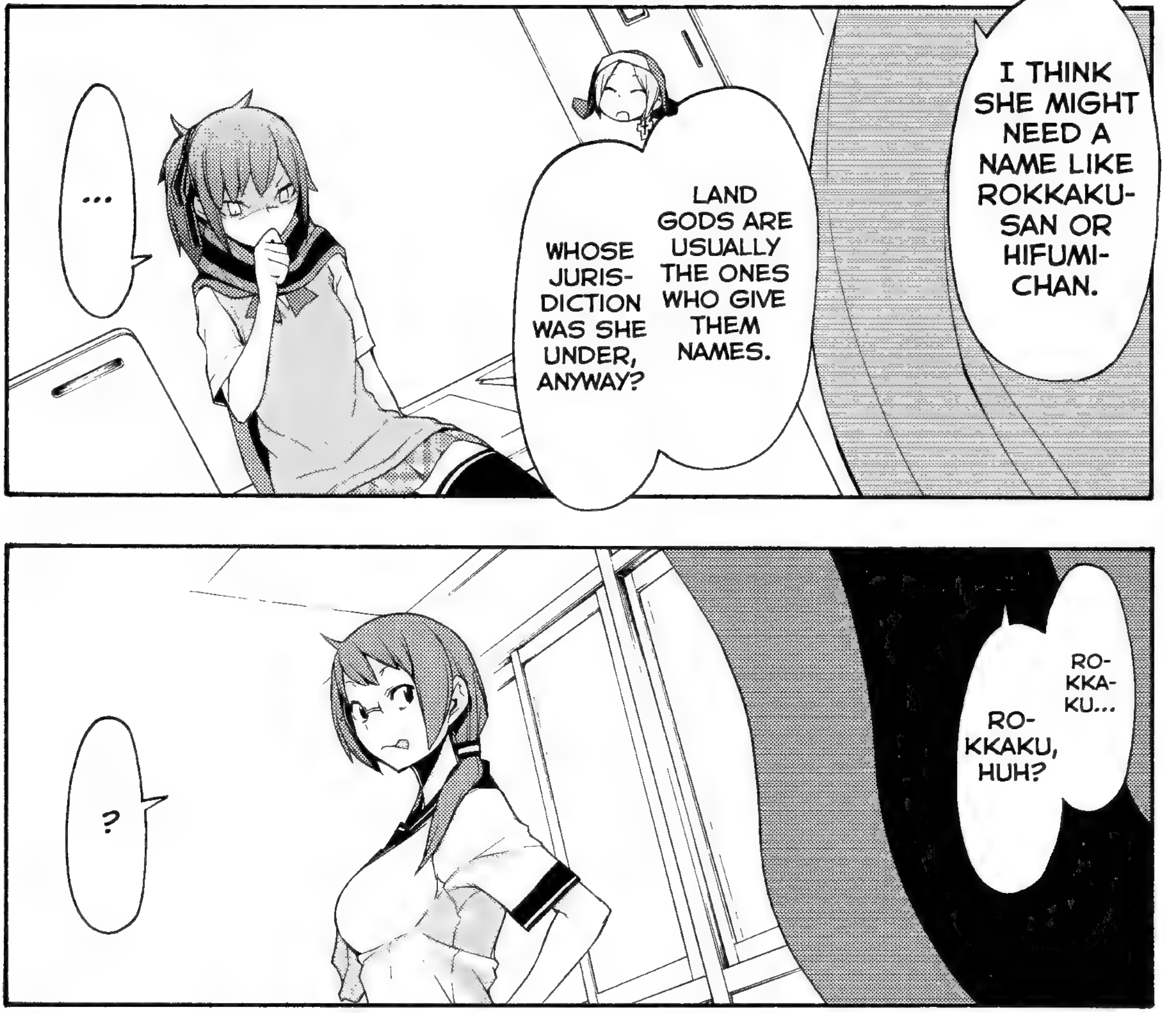

I GOT A CALL FROM THAT LAND GOD FRIEND IN HOKKAIDO I MENTIONED.
THEY SAID IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO SEND HER TO THE TOWN.
FROM THE LAND GOD?

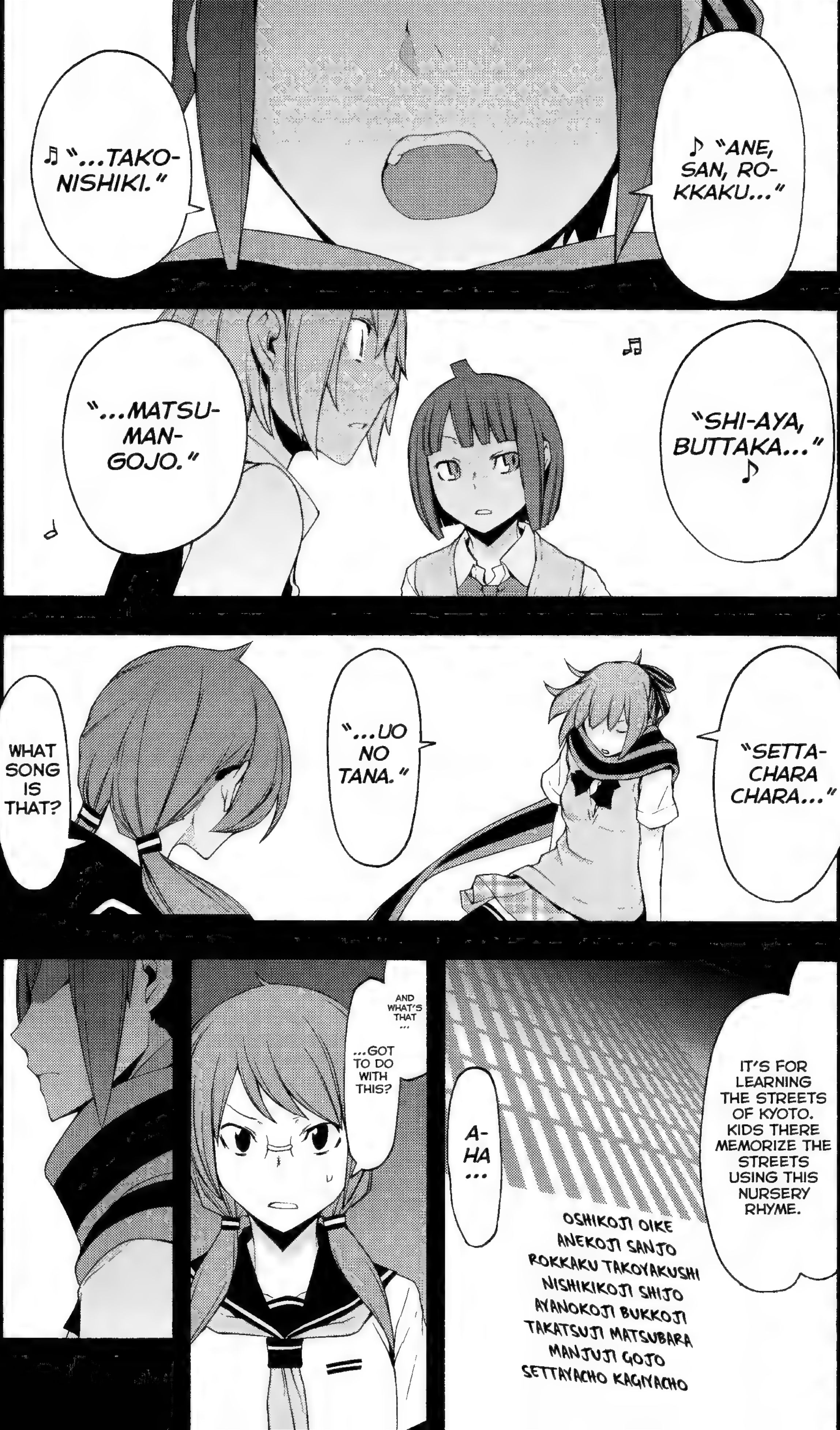

YUP.
LAND GODS ALL HAVE A HANDLE ON WILD DEMONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES TO A CERTAIN DEGREE.
TOMOE HAD BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON THAT YAMABIKO, TOO.
HUH...

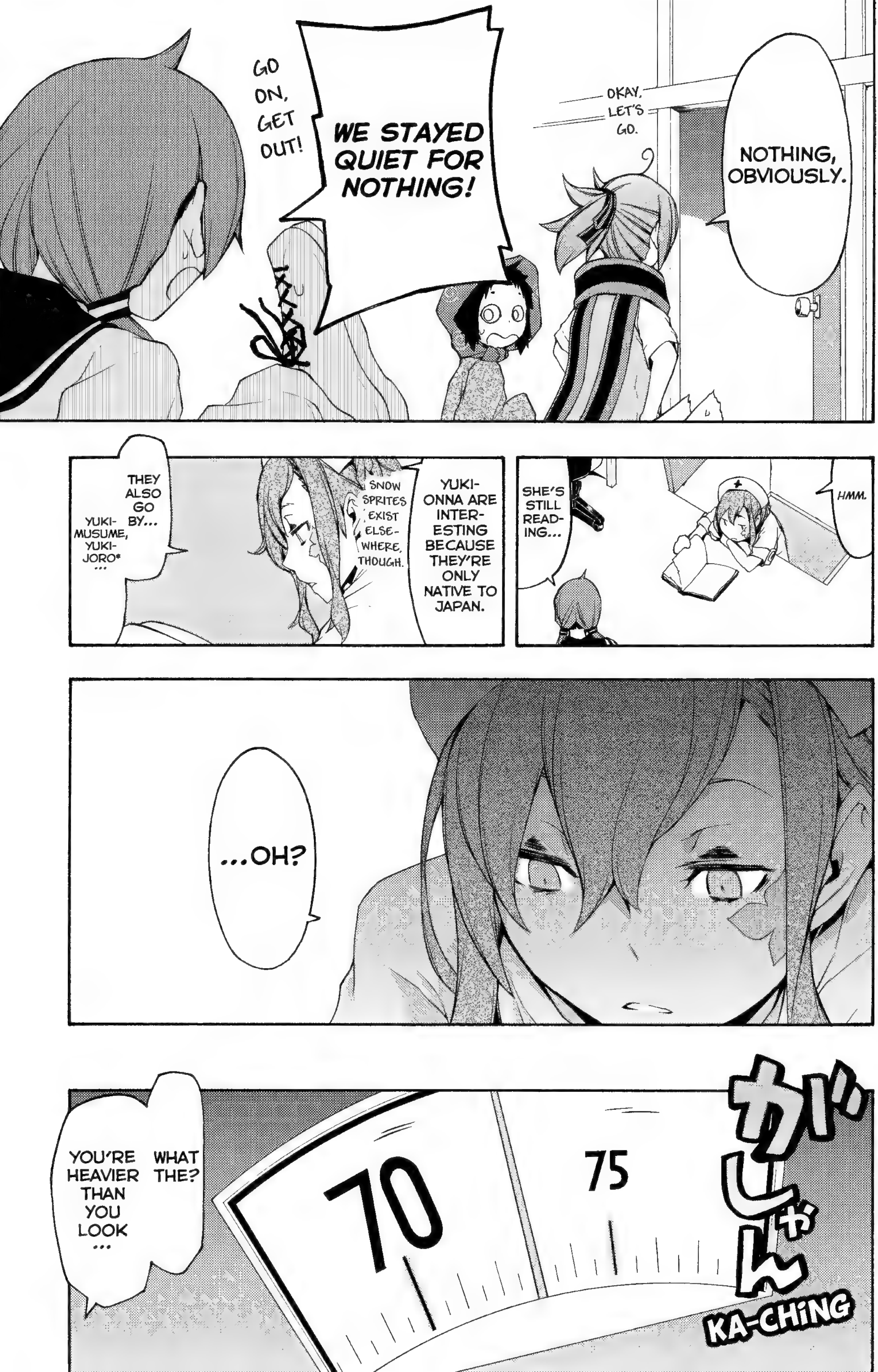

THEY TAKE ALL SORTS OF FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, LIKE CIVILIZATION'S MARK ON NATURE AND THE FLOW OF THE TIMES, WHILE MEDIATING WITH OUR TOWN.
I SEE.
PEEK
ちら
BUT IS IT REALLY THAT EASY FOR WILD DEMONS TO ADAPT TO SOCIETY?
?
~♪
JUNK FOOD
SMART PHONE
GAME SYSTEM
GUESS SO...
DEPENDS ON THE PERSON, THOUGH.
WHY ARE YOU WEARING YOUR UNIFORM, ANYWAY?
I HAD TO GO IN TODAY!
TOWNS ARE JUST AN EXTENSION OF NATURE.
WITH A LITTLE TWEAKING, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO ADAPT EASILY ENOUGH.
にょき
CREEP
WE'VE BEEN GETTING MORE SNOWFALL THANKS TO CLIMATE CHANGE,
AND AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEMS ARE MORE COMMON THAN THEY USED TO BE.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THEY THOUGHT A YUKI-ONNA COULD LIVE IN TOWN.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE, LILA-SAN.
THIS ARCHIVE IS THE GO-TO PLACE FOR RESEARCHING DEMONS.
YOU ALL SHOULD READ UP SOMETIME, TOO.

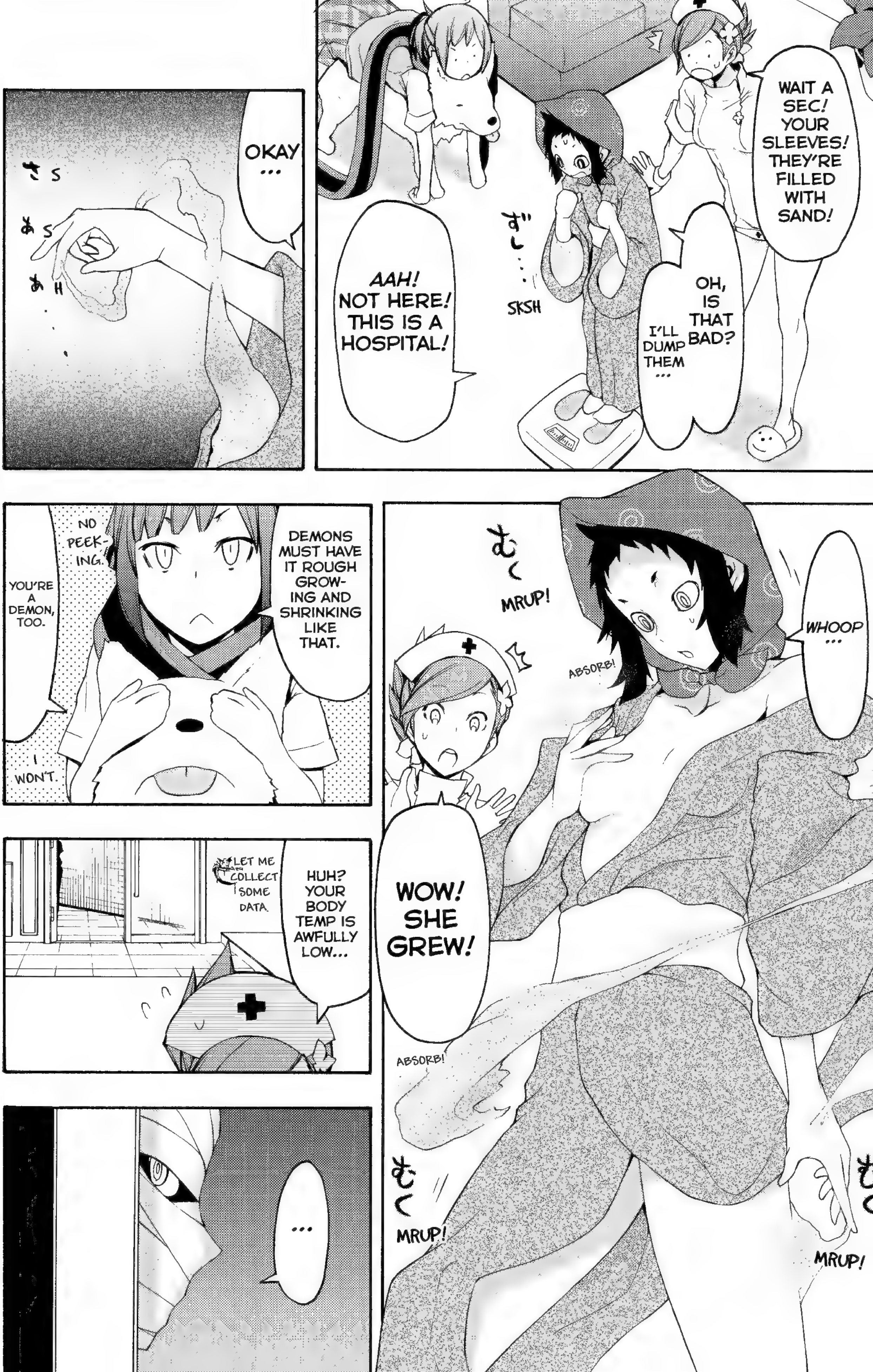

OH, RIGHT. SUNA-KAKE-BABA-CHAN.
MY SISTER WANTS YOU TO COME IN FOR AN EXAM.
OH, OKAY.
POUR OVER WHILE TURNING THE PIN AND BAKE.
THE SENATE ISN'T DOING THEM ANYMORE, AFTER ALL.
WHY DON'T WE HEAD OVER AFTER THIS?
YES, PLEASE!
MMM. YOU KNOW,
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT CALLING HER SUNA-KAKE-BABA...
BLINK しぱ しぱ BLINK
BABA*...
IT JUST FEELS OFF...
AAH, GOOD POINT.

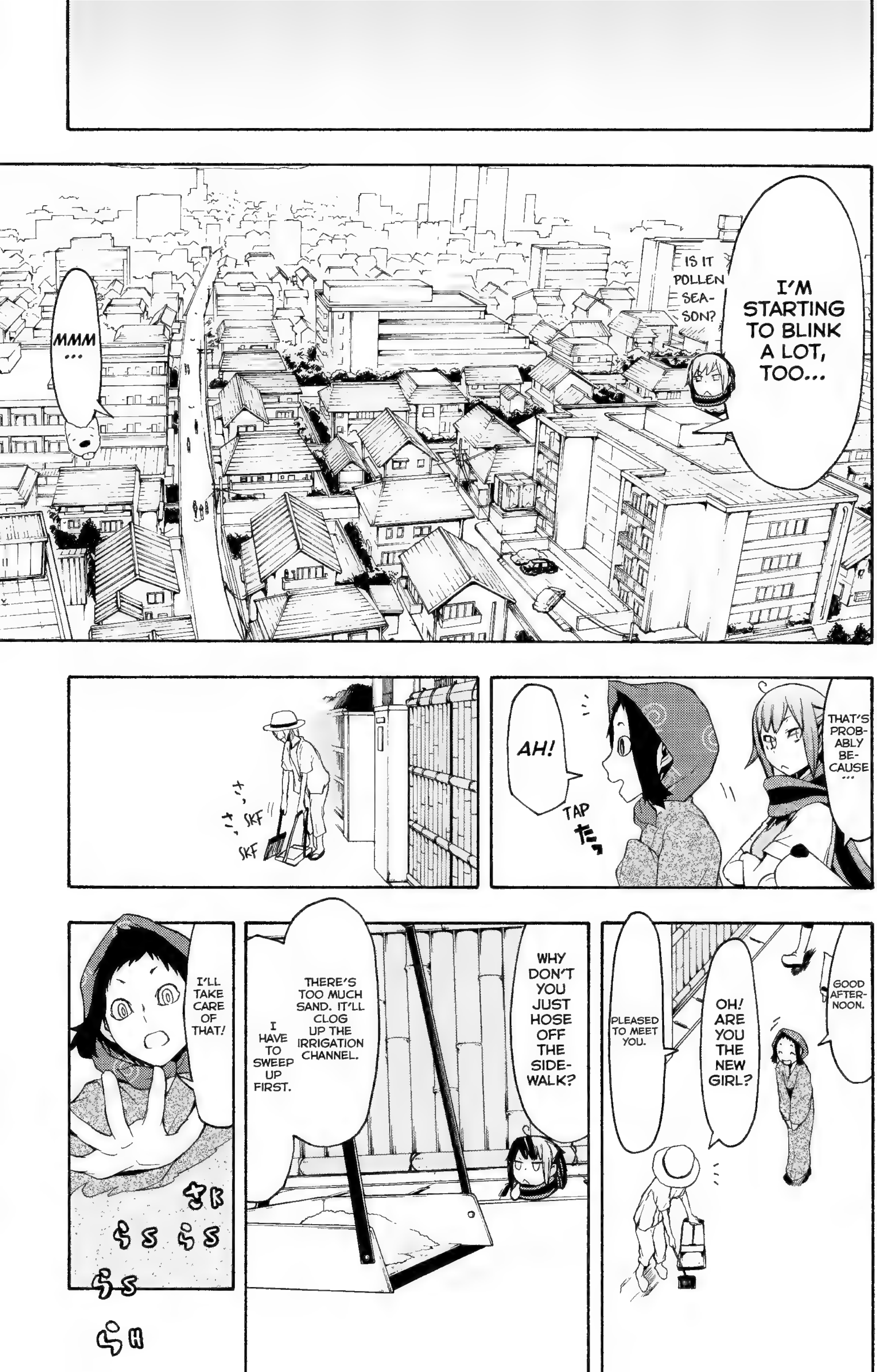
*"Baba" means "old woman" or "hag" in Japanese.

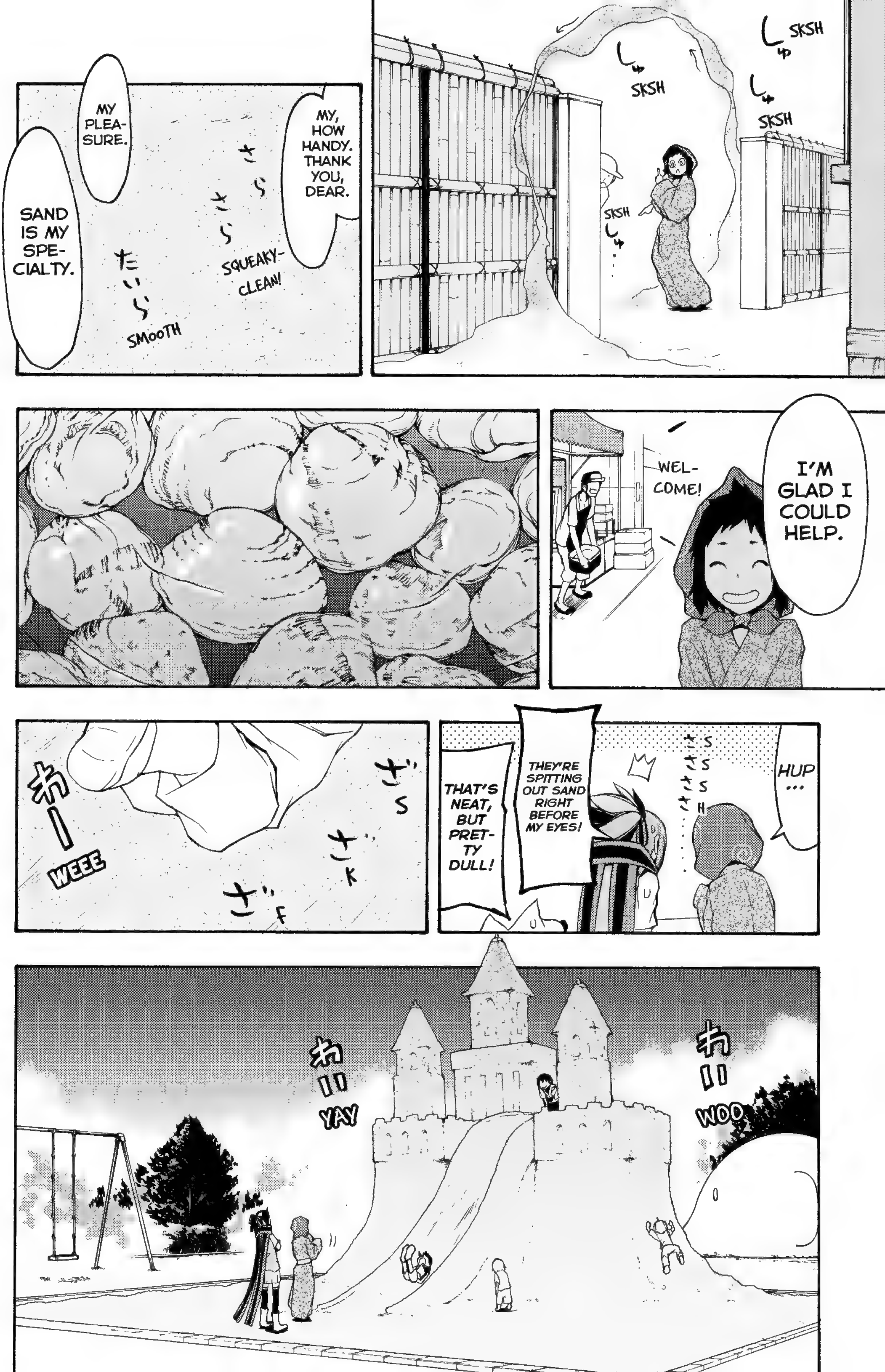

I THINK SHE MIGHT NEED A NAME LIKE ROKKAKU-SAN OR HIFUMI-CHAN.
LAND GODS ARE USUALLY THE ONES WHO GIVE THEM NAMES.
WHOSE JURISDICTION WAS SHE UNDER, ANYWAY?
...
RO-KKA-KU...
RO-KKAKU, HUH?
?

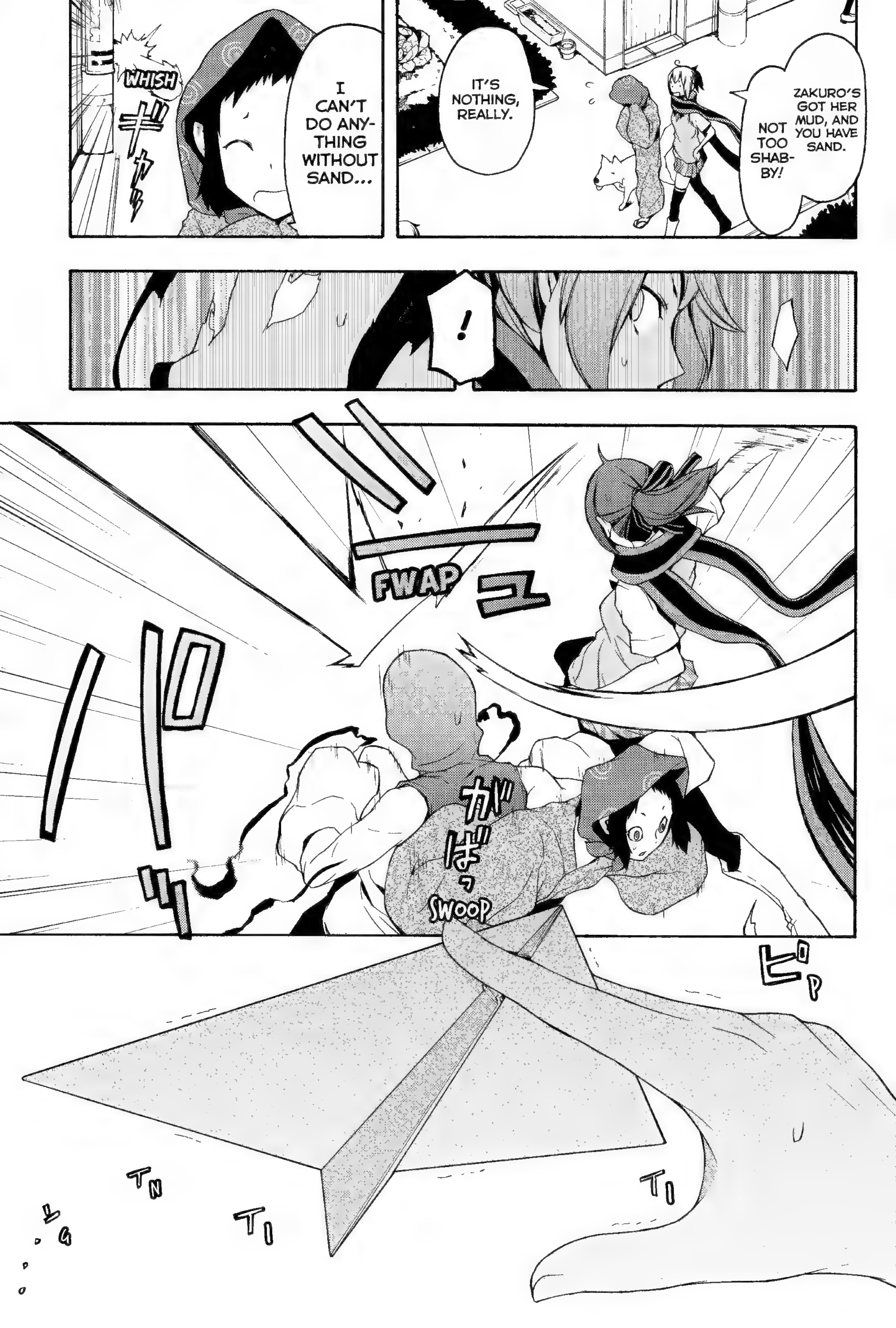

♪ "ANE, SAN, ROKKAKU..."
♫ "...TAKONISHIKI."
"SHI-AYA, BUTTAKA..." ♪
"...MATSUMANGOJO."
"SETTACHARA CHARA..."
"...UO NO TANA."
WHAT SONG IS THAT?
IT'S FOR LEARNING THE STREETS OF KYOTO. KIDS THERE MEMORIZE THE STREETS USING THIS NURSERY RHYME.
OSHIKOJI OIKE
ANEKOJI SANJO
ROKKAKU TAKOYAKUSHI
NISHIKIKOJI SHIJO
AYANOKOJI BUKKOJI
TAKATSUJI MATSUBARA
MANJUJI GOJO
SETTAYACHO KAGIYACHO
A-HA...
AND WHAT'S THAT...
...GOT TO DO WITH THIS?

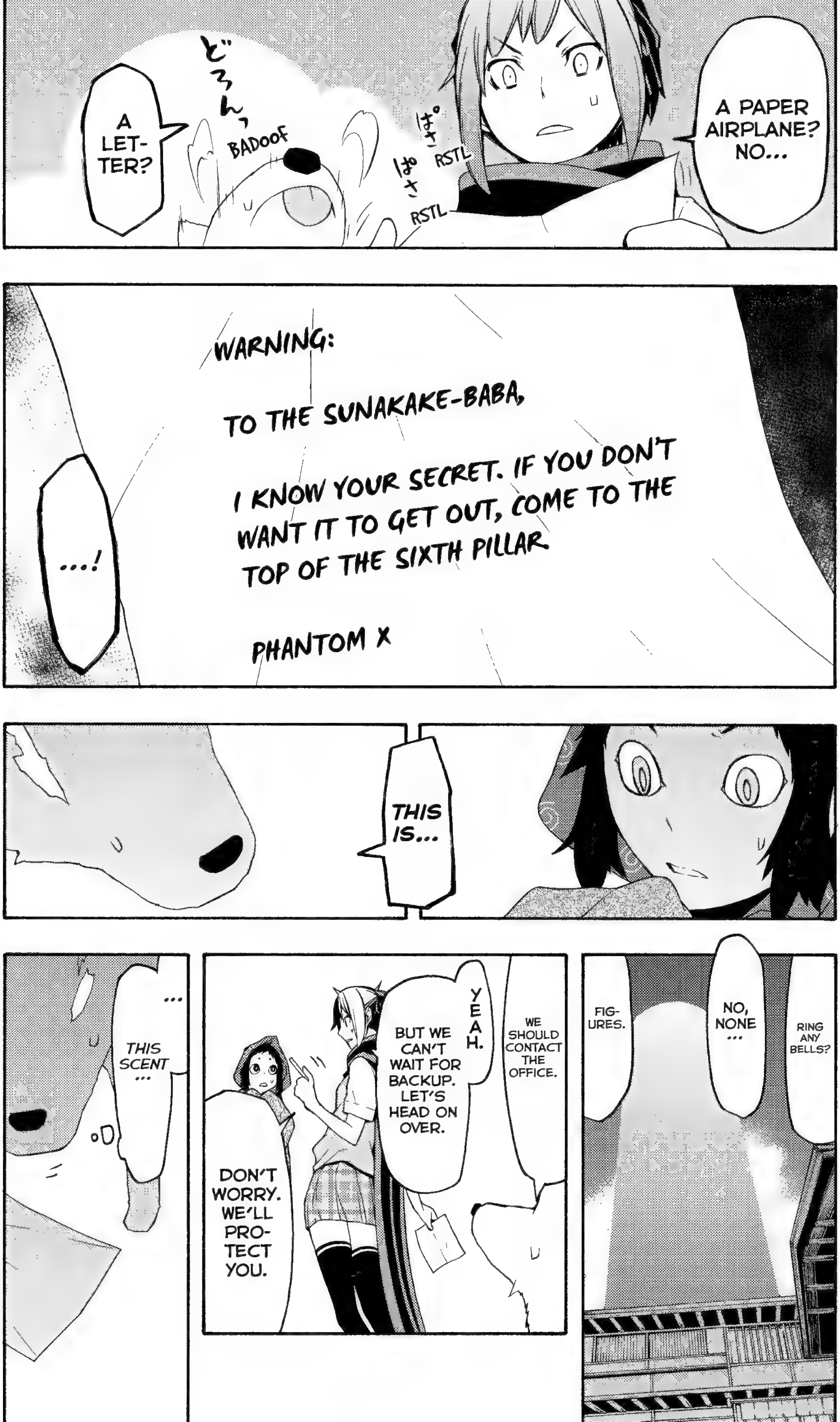

NOTHING, OBVIOUSLY.
OKAY, LET'S GO.
WE STAYED QUIET FOR NOTHING!
GO ON, GET OUT!
HMM.
SHE'S STILL READING...
YUKI-ONNA ARE INTERESTING BECAUSE THEY'RE ONLY NATIVE TO JAPAN.
SNOW SPRITES EXIST ELSEWHERE, THOUGH.
THEY ALSO GO BY... YUKI-MUSUME, YUKI-JORO*...
...OH?
かしゃん
KA-CHING
75
70
WHAT THE?
YOU'RE HEAVIER THAN YOU LOOK...

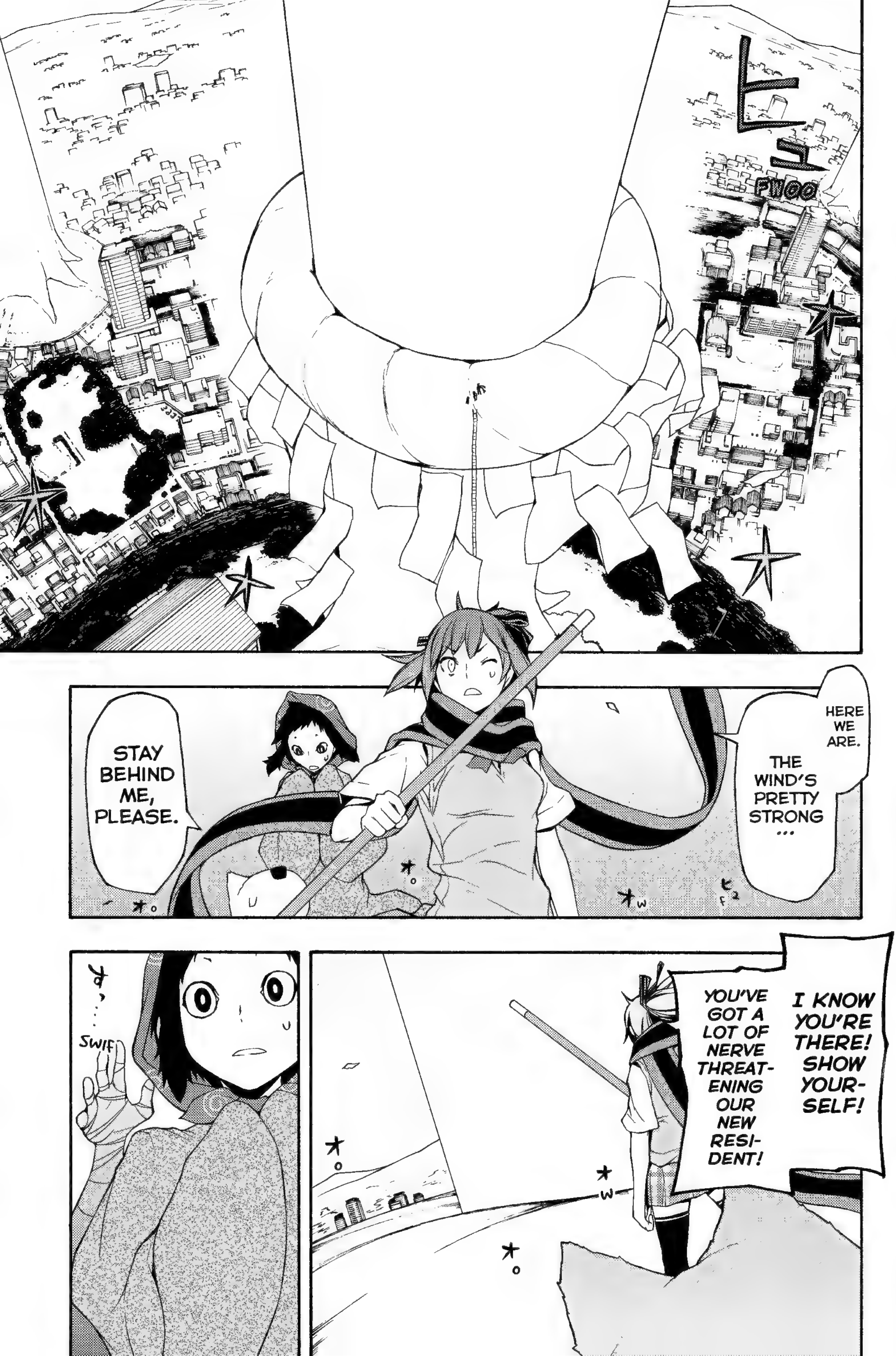

WAIT A SEC! YOUR SLEEVES! THEY'RE FILLED WITH SAND!
OH, IS THAT BAD?
I'LL DUMP THEM...
ずし... SKSH
AAH! NOT HERE! THIS IS A HOSPITAL!
OKAY...
さ S
あ S
あ H
むく MRUP!
WHOOP...
ABSORB!
WOW! SHE GREW!
ABSORB!
むく MRUP!
むく MRUP!
DEMONS MUST HAVE IT ROUGH GROWING AND SHRINKING LIKE THAT.
NO PEEKING.
YOU'RE A DEMON, TOO.
I WON'T.
HUH? YOUR BODY TEMP IS AWFULLY LOW...
LET ME COLLECT SOME DATA.
...

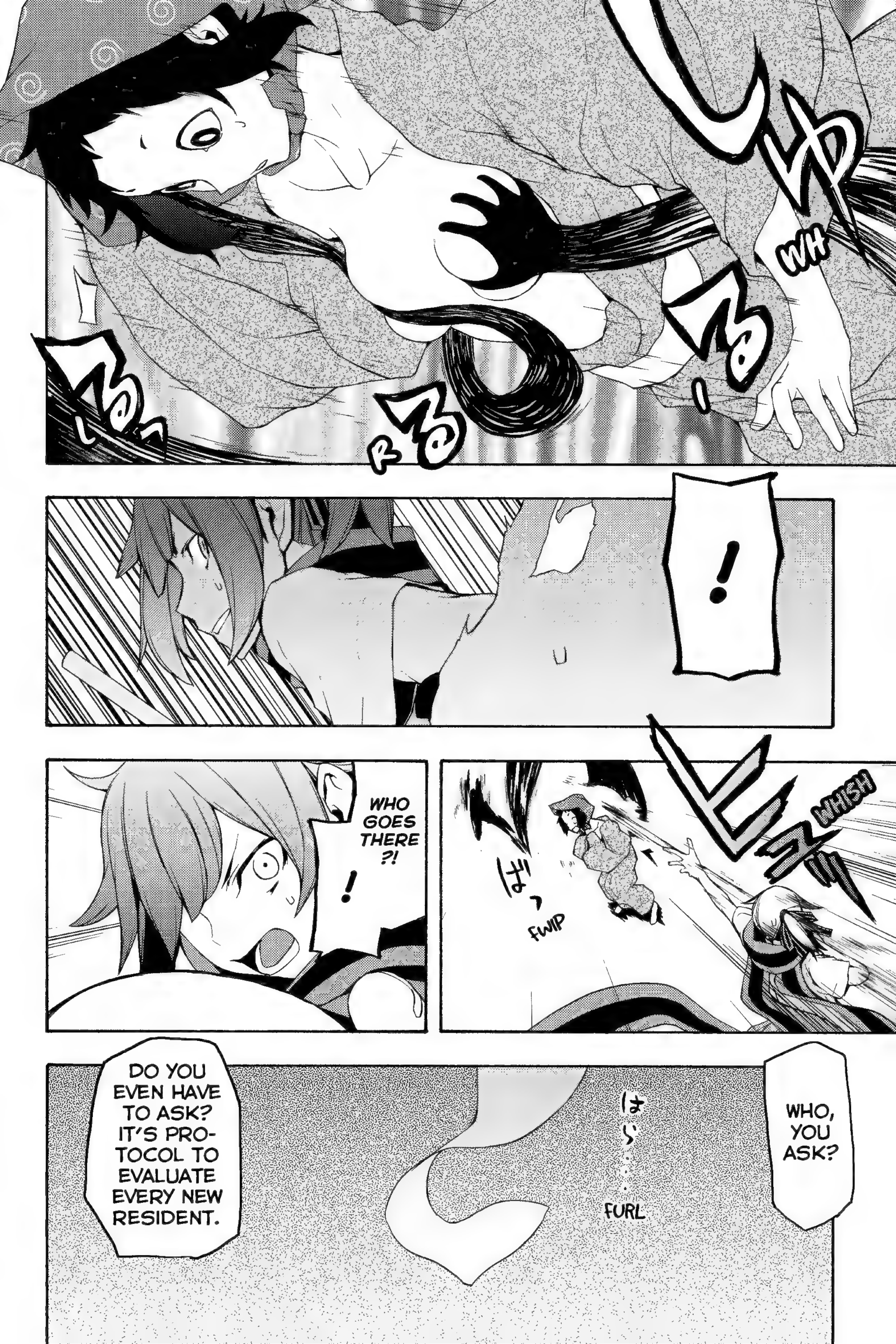

I'M STARTING TO BLINK A LOT, TOO...
IS IT POLLEN SEASON?
MMM...
THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE...
AH!
TAP
SKF SKF
GOOD AFTERNOON.
OH! ARE YOU THE NEW GIRL?
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST HOSE OFF THE SIDEWALK?
THERE'S TOO MUCH SAND. IT'LL CLOG UP THE IRRIGATION CHANNEL.
I HAVE TO SWEEP UP FIRST.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT!
SK
SS SS
SS
SH

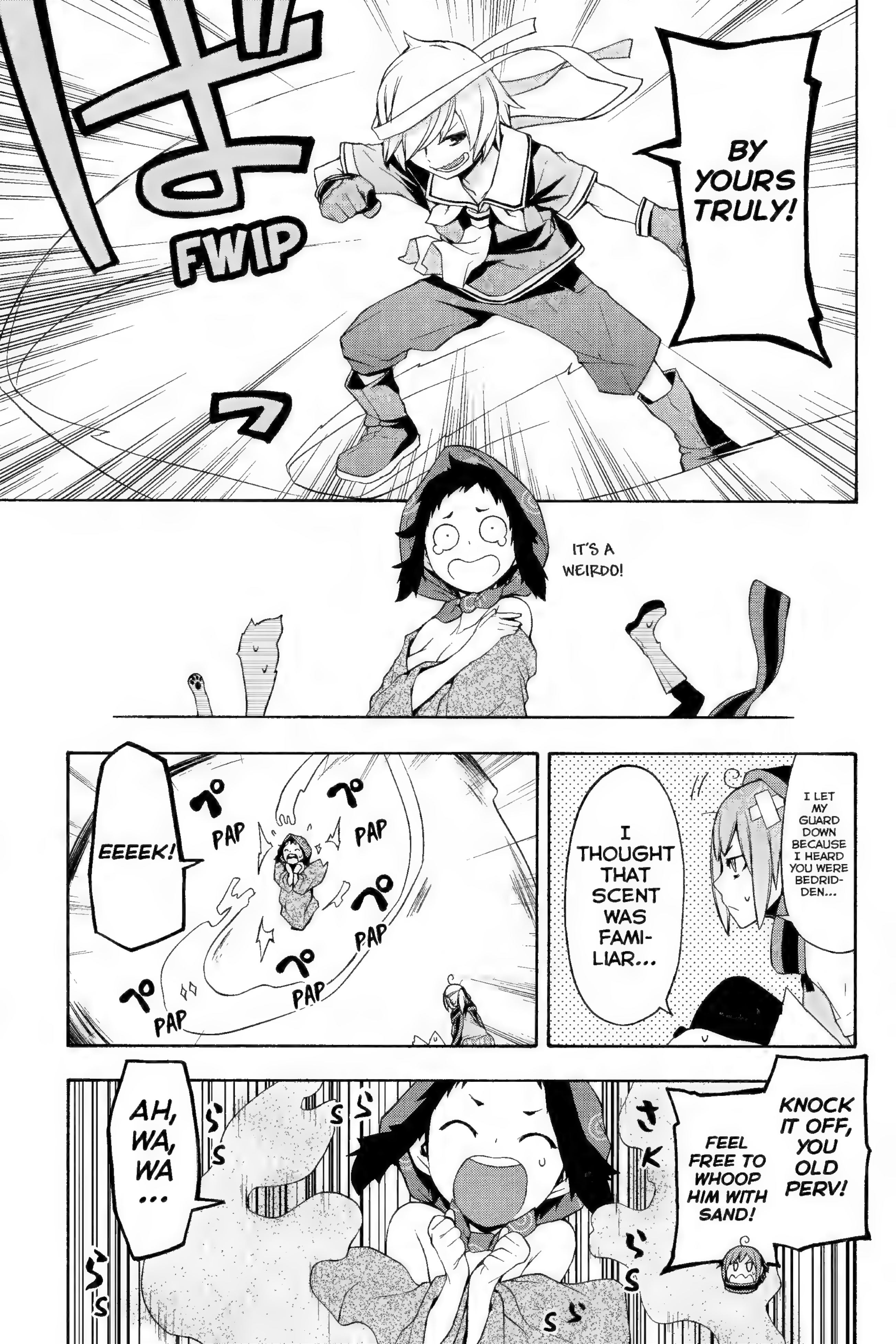

しゅ SKSH
しゅ SKSH
しゅ SKSH
SKSH しゅ…
さらさら SQUEAKY-CLEAN!
MY, HOW HANDY. THANK YOU, DEAR.
MY PLEASURE.
SAND IS MY SPECIALTY.
たいら SMOOTH
I'M GLAD I COULD HELP.
WELCOME!
HUP…
ささささ SSSH……
THEY'RE SPITTING OUT SAND RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!
THAT'S NEAT, BUT PRETTY DULL!
ざ S
さ K
ざ F
わー WEEE
わー WOO
わー YAY

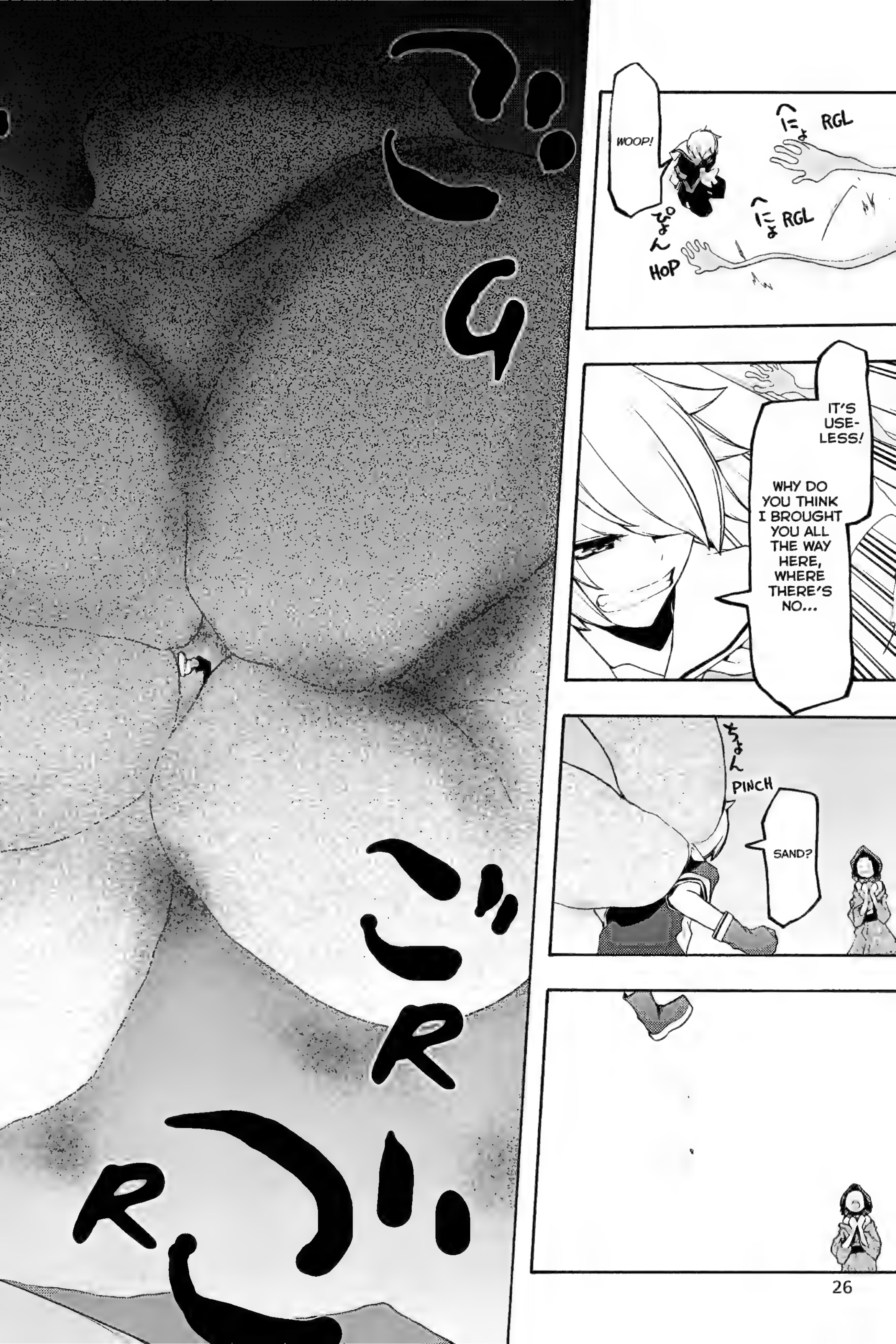

ZAKURO'S GOT HER MUD, AND YOU HAVE SAND.
NOT TOO SHABBY!
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT SAND...
WHISH
ギャッ
!
FWAP
パッ
かばっ
SWOOP
ピP
TI
TN
TI
ツG

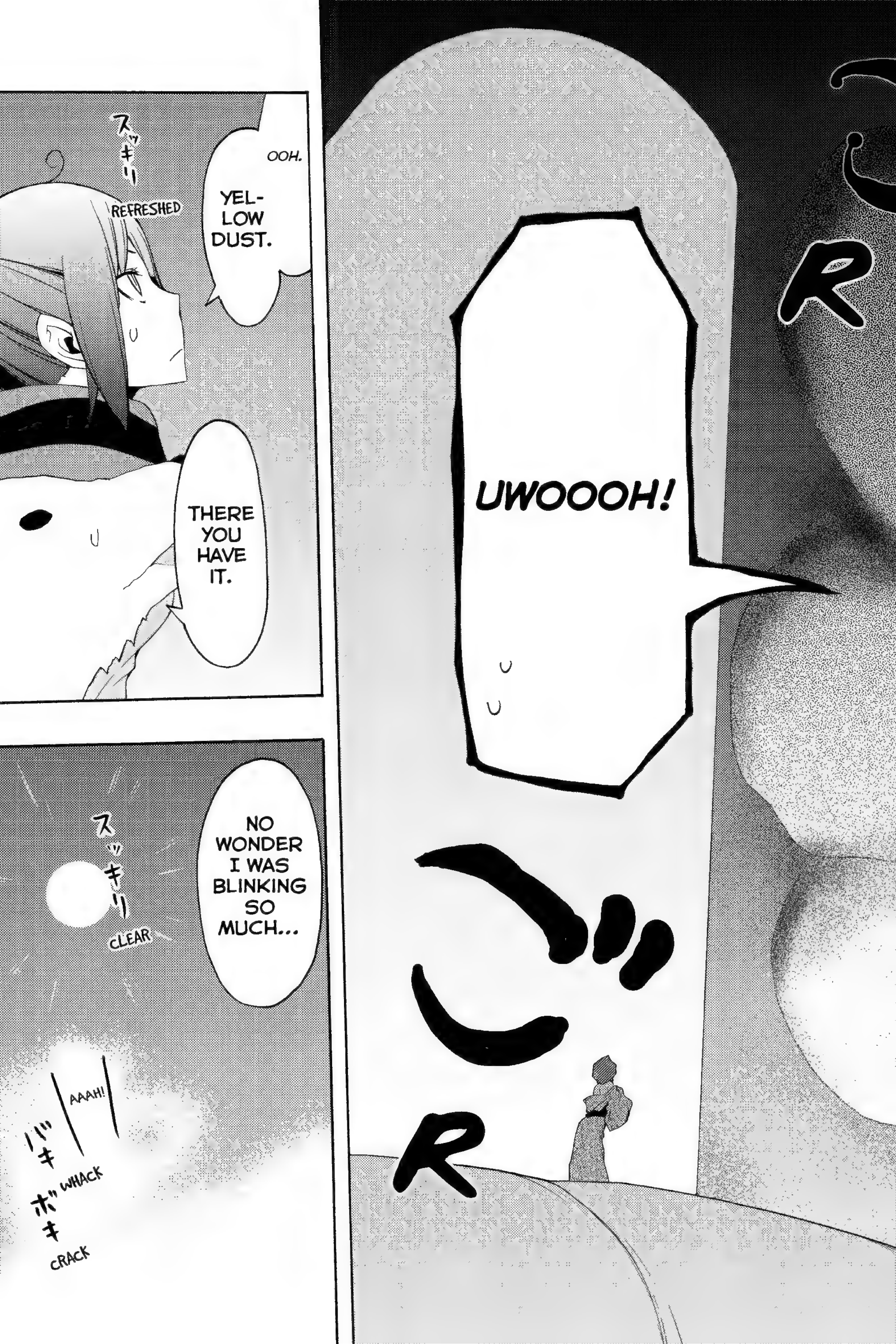

A PAPER AIRPLANE? NO...
ぱさ
RSTL
ぱさ
RSTL
どろん
BADOOF
A LETTER?
WARNING:
TO THE SUNAKAKE-BABA,
I KNOW YOUR SECRET. IF YOU DON'T WANT IT TO GET OUT, COME TO THE TOP OF THE SIXTH PILLAR.
PHANTOM X
...!
THIS IS...
RING ANY BELLS?
NO, NONE...
FIGURES.
WE SHOULD CONTACT THE OFFICE.
YEAH.
BUT WE CAN'T WAIT FOR BACKUP. LET'S HEAD ON OVER.
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL PROTECT YOU.
...
THIS SCENT...

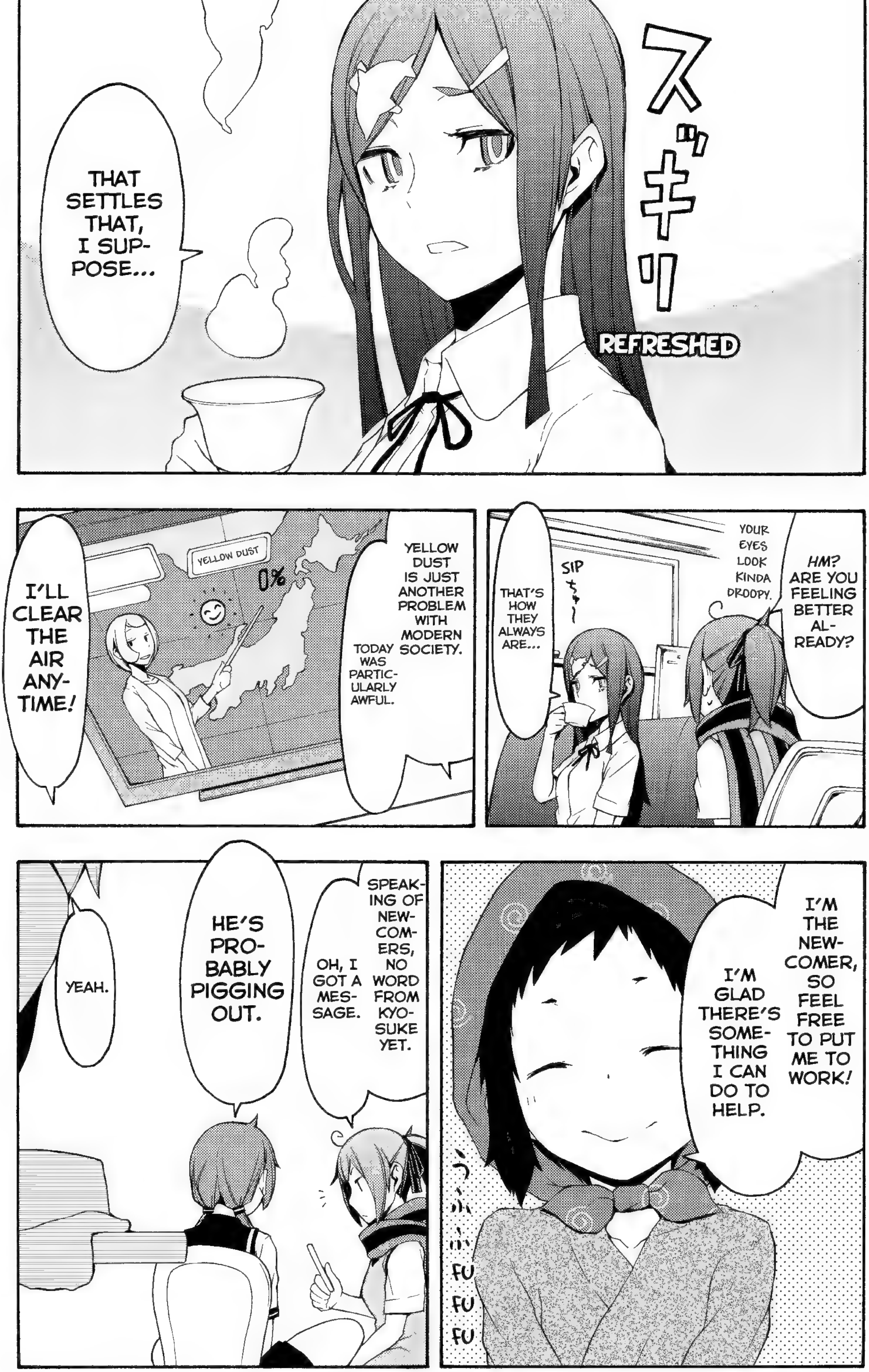

ヒュ
PWOO
HERE WE ARE.
THE WIND'S PRETTY STRONG...
STAY BEHIND ME, PLEASE.
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE! SHOW YOURSELF!
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE THREATENING OUR NEW RESIDENT!
す…
SWIF

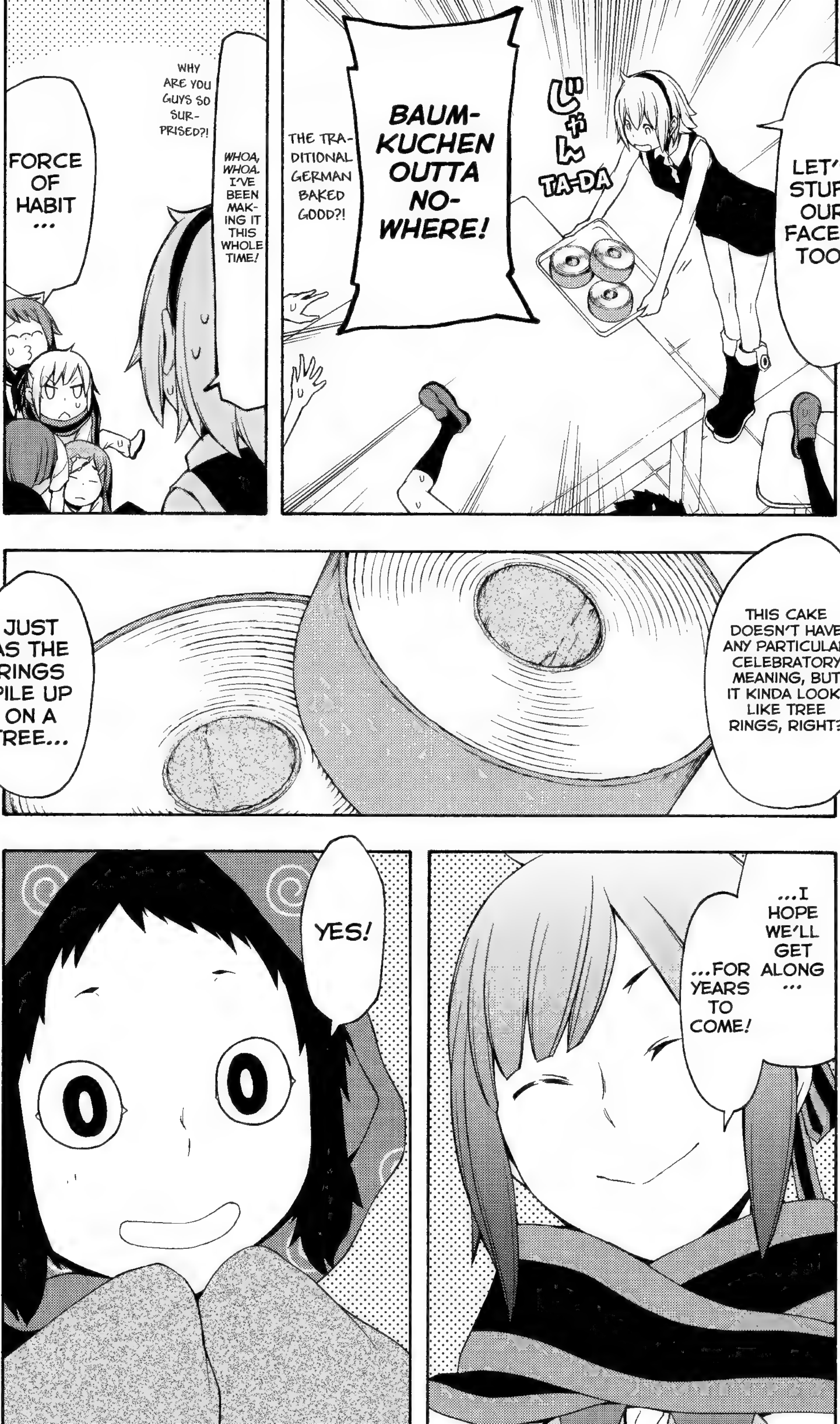

WH
R
!
WHISH
ぱっ
FWIP
WHO GOES THERE?!
!
WHO, YOU ASK?
はら……
FURL
DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK? IT'S PROTOCOL TO EVALUATE EVERY NEW RESIDENT.

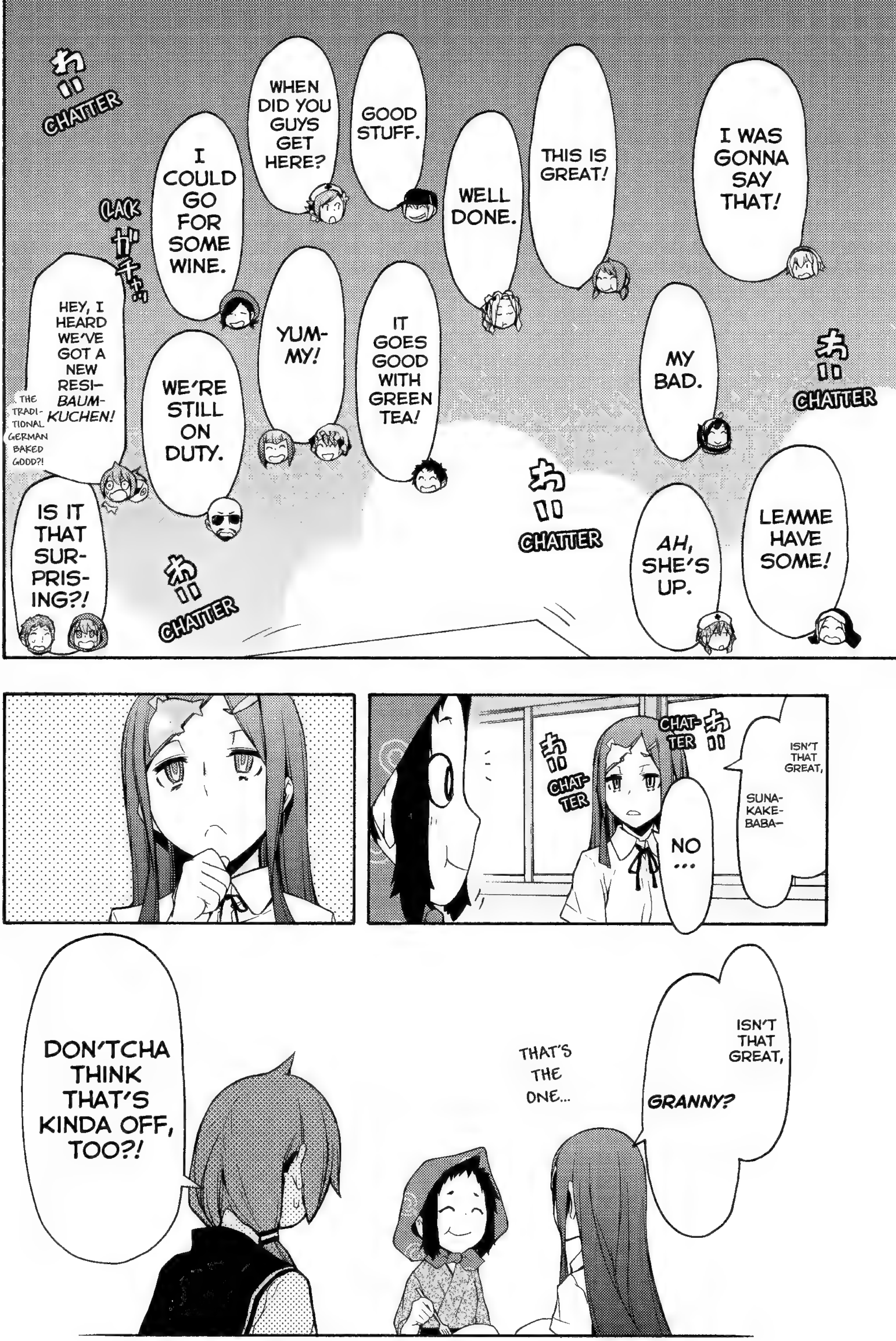

BY YOURS TRULY!
ば
FWIP
っ
IT'S A WEIRDO!
I LET MY GUARD DOWN BECAUSE I HEARD YOU WERE BEDRIDDEN...
I THOUGHT THAT SCENT WAS FAMILIAR...
ぺ PAP
ぺ PAP
ぺ PAP
ぺ PAP
ぺ PAP
EEEEK!
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU OLD PERV!
FEEL FREE TO WHOOP HIM WITH SAND!
さ K
ざ S
ざ S
ざ S
ざ S
ざ S
AH, WA, WA...


WOOP!
へにょ RGL
へにょ RGL
ぴょん HOP
IT'S USELESS!
WHY DO YOU THINK I BROUGHT YOU ALL THE WAY HERE, WHERE THERE'S NO...
ちょん PINCH
SAND?
ご G
ご R
ご R

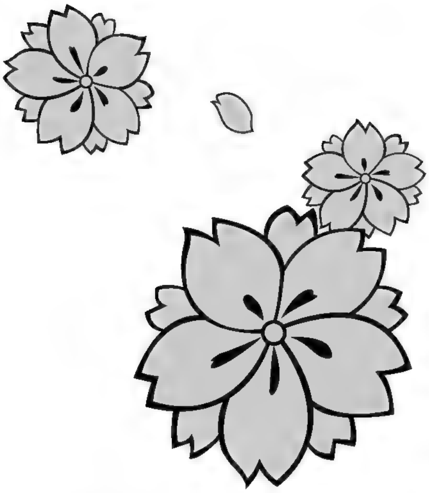

R
UWOOOH!
R
OOH.
YELLOW DUST.
スッキリ
REFRESHED
THERE YOU HAVE IT.
NO WONDER I WAS BLINKING SO MUCH...
スッキリ
CLEAR
AAAH!
バキ
WHACK
ボキ
CRACK


THAT SETTLES THAT, I SUPPOSE...
スッキリ
REFRESHED
HM? ARE YOU FEELING BETTER ALREADY?
YOUR EYES LOOK KINDA DROOPY.
SIP
ちゃ～
THAT'S HOW THEY ALWAYS ARE...
YELLOW DUST IS JUST ANOTHER PROBLEM WITH MODERN SOCIETY.
TODAY WAS PARTICULARLY AWFUL.
YELLOW DUST
0%
I'LL CLEAR THE AIR ANYTIME!
I'M THE NEWCOMER, SO FEEL FREE TO PUT ME TO WORK!
I'M GLAD THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO TO HELP.
うふふ
FU FU FU
SPEAKING OF NEWCOMERS, NO WORD FROM KYOSUKE YET.
OH, I GOT A MESSAGE.
HE'S PROBABLY PIGGING OUT.
YEAH.


LET'S STUFF OUR FACES, TOO!
じゃん
TA-DA
BAUMKUCHEN OUTTA NOWHERE!
THE TRADITIONAL GERMAN BAKED GOOD?!
WHY ARE YOU GUYS SO SURPRISED?!
WHOA, WHOA. I'VE BEEN MAKING IT THIS WHOLE TIME!
FORCE OF HABIT...
THIS CAKE DOESN'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR CELEBRATORY MEANING, BUT IT KINDA LOOKS LIKE TREE RINGS, RIGHT?
JUST AS THE RINGS PILE UP ON A TREE...
...I HOPE WE'LL GET ALONG...
...FOR YEARS TO COME!
YES!

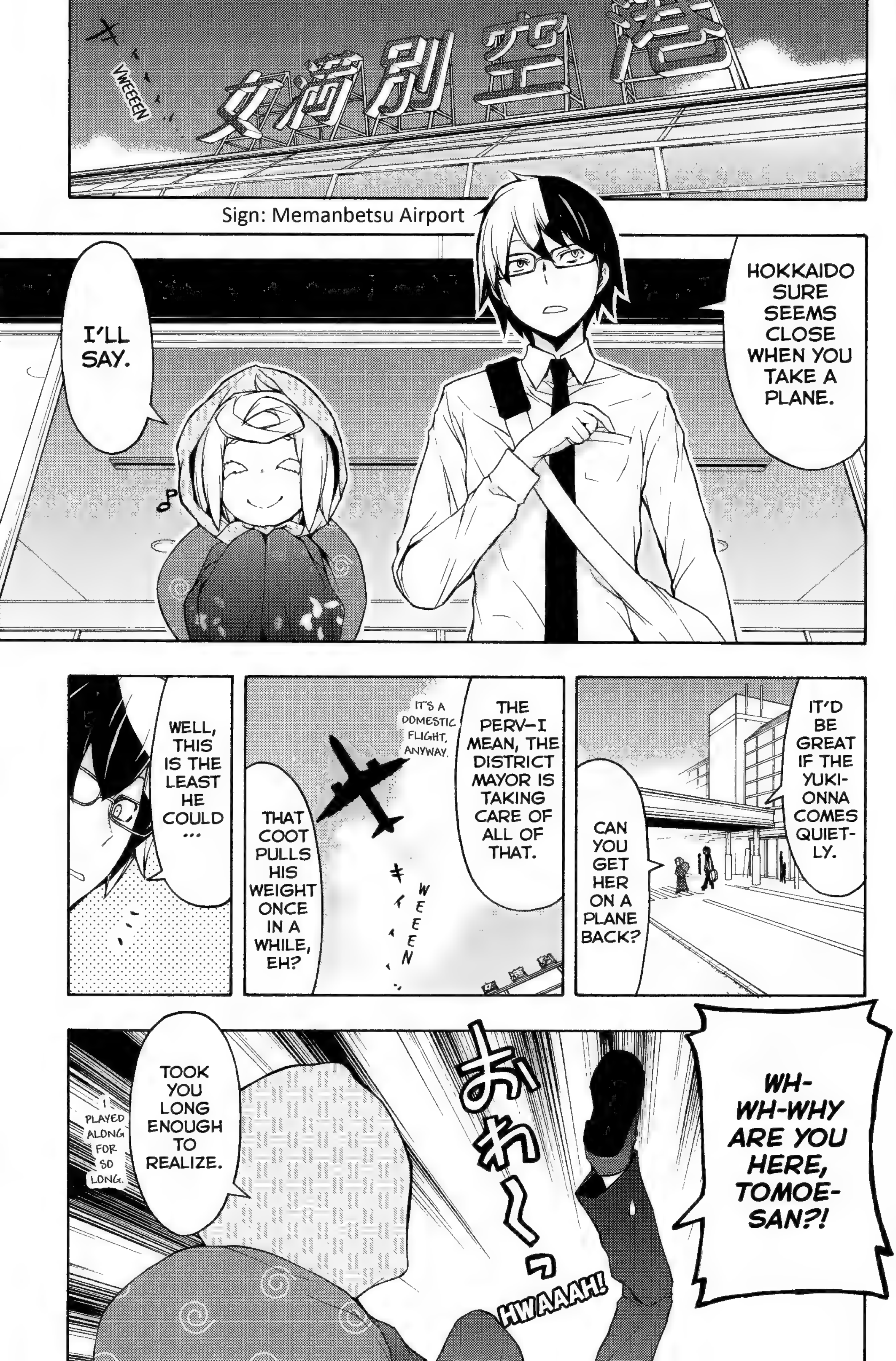

I WAS GONNA SAY THAT!
THIS IS GREAT!
WELL DONE.
GOOD STUFF.
WHEN DID YOU GUYS GET HERE?
I COULD GO FOR SOME WINE.
CHATTER
MY BAD.
IT GOES GOOD WITH GREEN TEA!
YUM-MY!
CLACK ガチャ
HEY, I HEARD WE'VE GOT A NEW RESI-BAUMKUCHEN!
THE TRADITIONAL GERMAN BAKED GOOD?!
CHATTER
LEMME HAVE SOME!
AH, SHE'S UP.
CHATTER
WE'RE STILL ON DUTY.
IS IT THAT SURPRISING?!
CHATTER
ISN'T THAT GREAT, SUNA-KAKE-BABA—
NO...
CHATTER
CHATTER
ISN'T THAT GREAT, GRANNY?
THAT'S THE ONE...
DON'TCHA THINK THAT'S KINDA OFF, TOO?!

100TH NIGHT SANDSTORM END



YOZAKURA
QUARTET 18

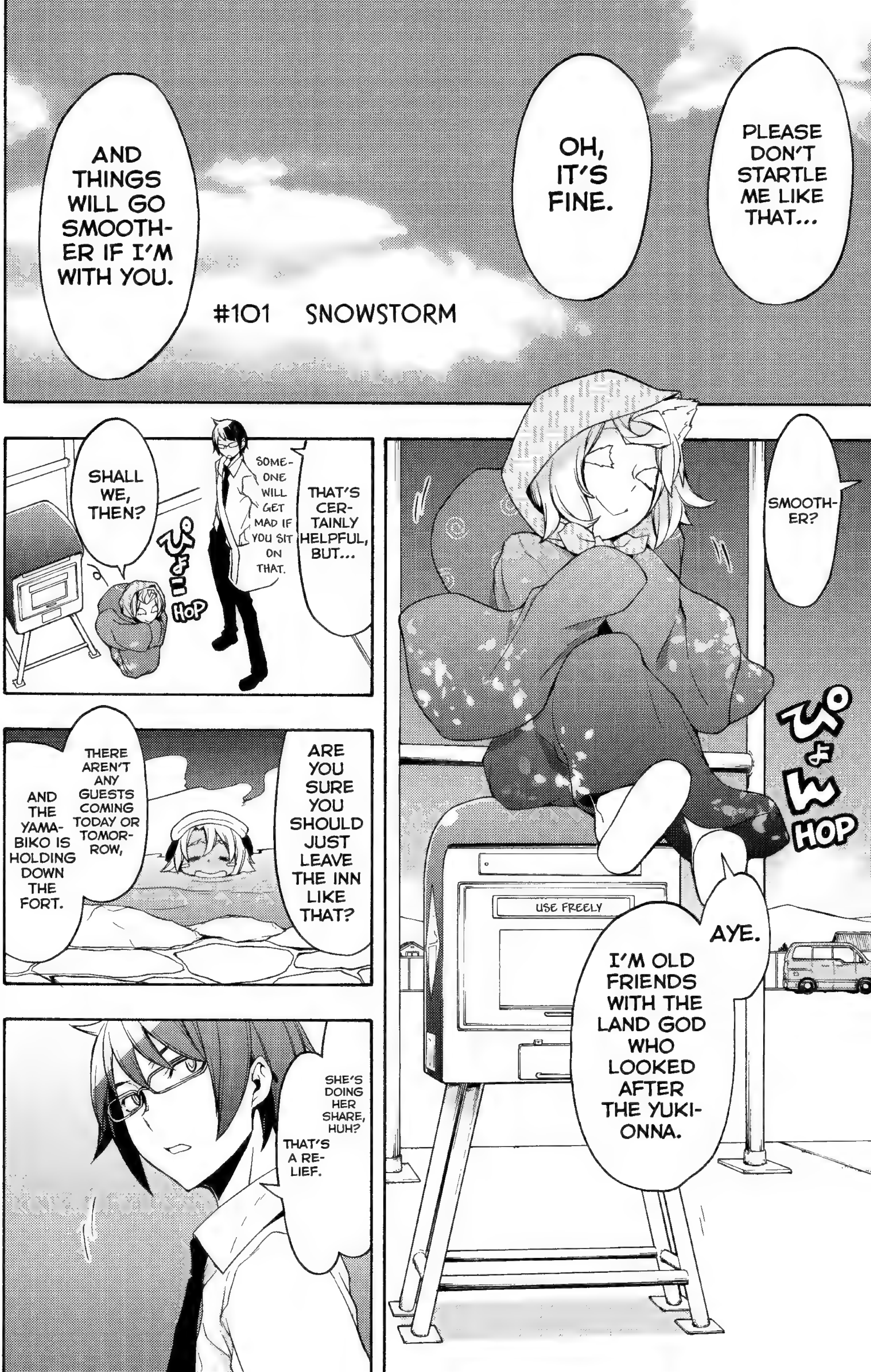
YOU CAN MAKE BAUMKUCHEN AT HOME, TOO!

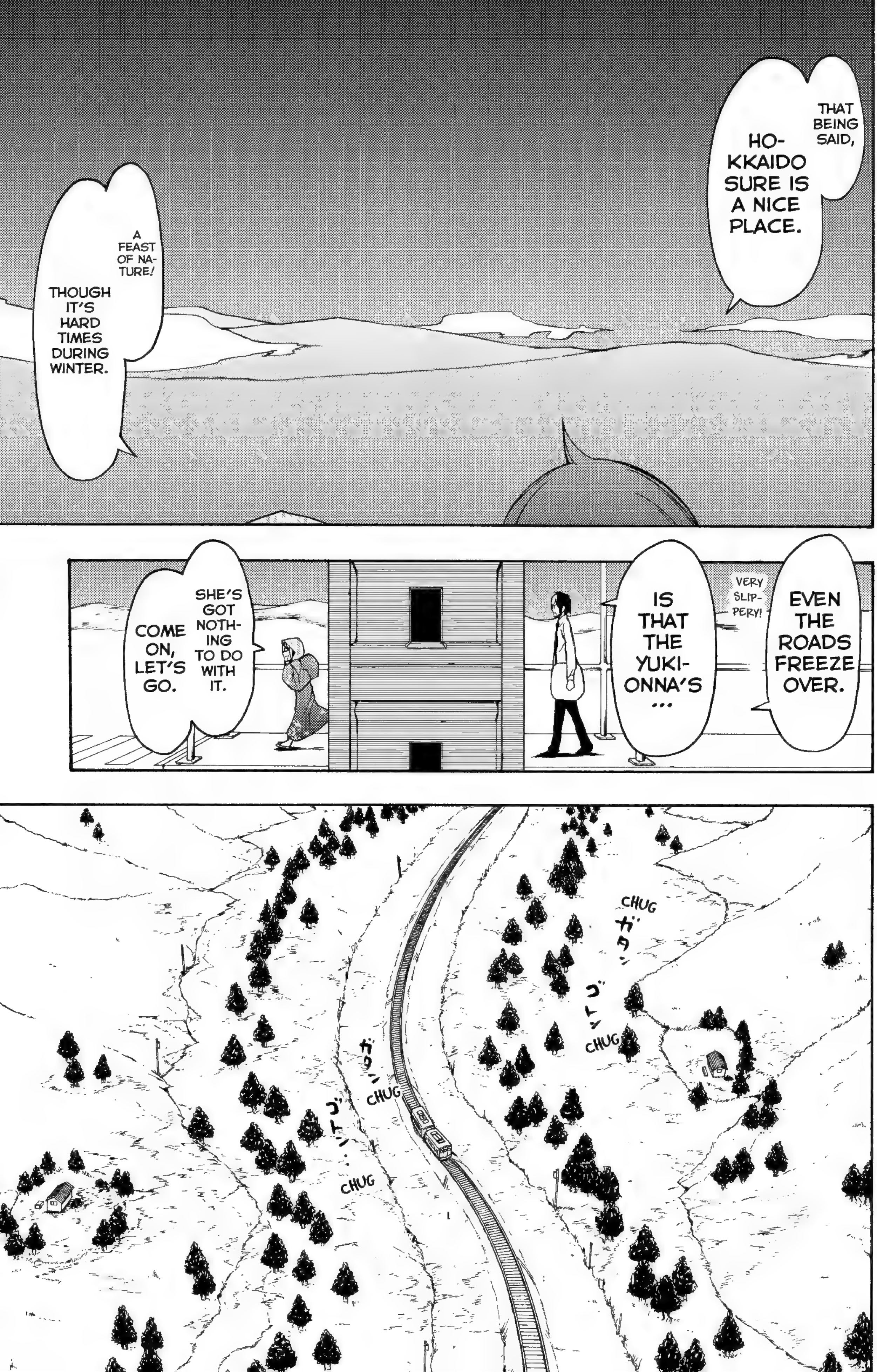


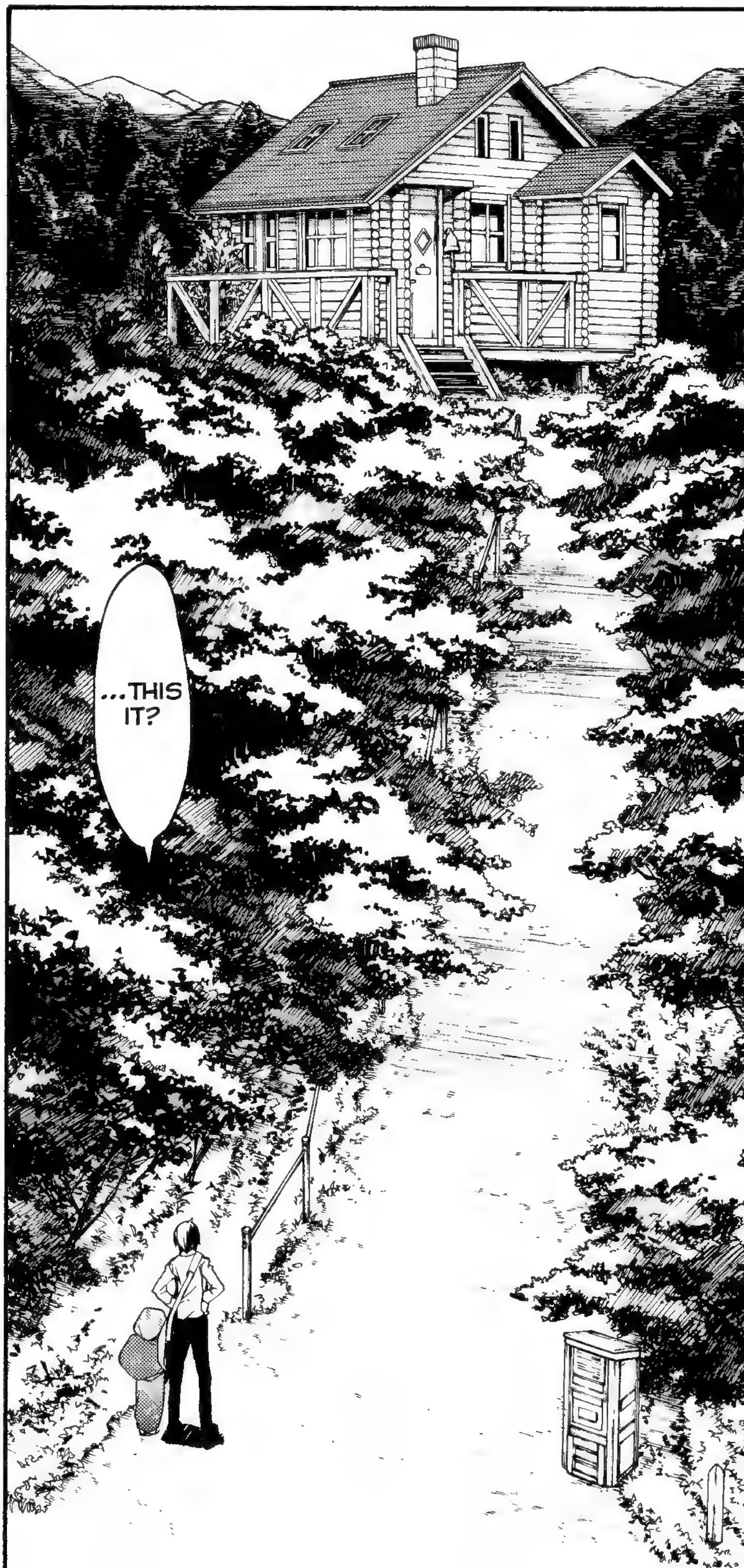
女満別空港
キ
VWEEEEN
HOKKAIDO SURE SEEMS CLOSE WHEN YOU TAKE A PLANE.
I'LL SAY.
IT'D BE GREAT IF THE YUKI-ONNA COMES QUIETLY.
CAN YOU GET HER ON A PLANE BACK?
THE PERV—I MEAN, THE DISTRICT MAYOR IS TAKING CARE OF ALL OF THAT.
IT'S A DOMESTIC FLIGHT, ANYWAY.
THAT COOT PULLS HIS WEIGHT ONCE IN A WHILE, EH?
キィ
WEEEN
WELL, THIS IS THE LEAST HE COULD...
WH-WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE, TOMOE-SAN?!
おわ〜っ
HWAAAH!
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH TO REALIZE.
I PLAYED ALONG FOR SO LONG.

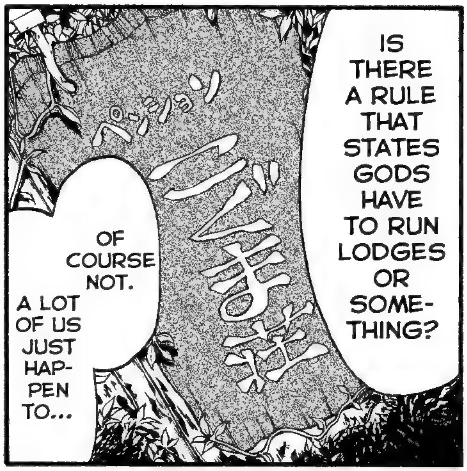
Sign: Memanbetsu Airport

#101 SNOWSTORM

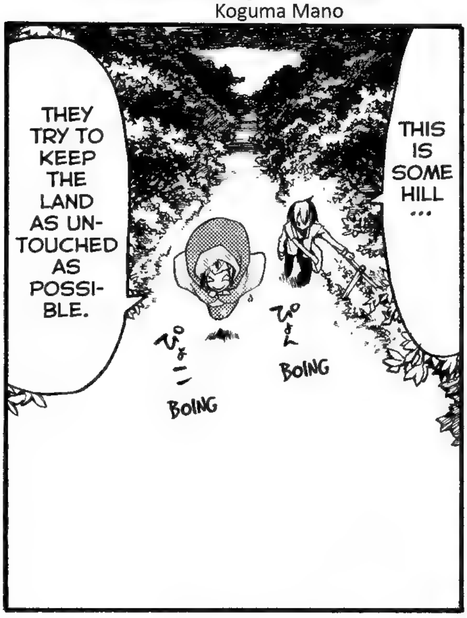

PLEASE DON'T STARTLE ME LIKE THAT...
OH, IT'S FINE.
AND THINGS WILL GO SMOOTHER IF I'M WITH YOU.
SMOOTHER?
ぴょん HOP
USE FREELY
AYE. I'M OLD FRIENDS WITH THE LAND GOD WHO LOOKED AFTER THE YUKI-ONNA.
THAT'S CERTAINLY HELPFUL, BUT...
SOMEONE WILL GET MAD IF YOU SIT ON THAT.
SHALL WE, THEN?
ぴょ HOP
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD JUST LEAVE THE INN LIKE THAT?
THERE AREN'T ANY GUESTS COMING TODAY OR TOMORROW,
AND THE YAMABIKO IS HOLDING DOWN THE FORT.
SHE'S DOING HER SHARE, HUH?
THAT'S A RELIEF.

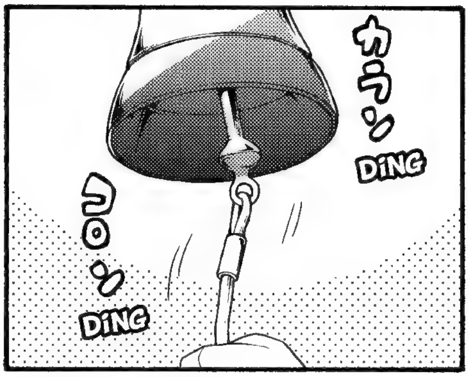

THAT BEING SAID,
HOKKAIDO SURE IS A NICE PLACE.
A FEAST OF NATURE!
THOUGH IT'S HARD TIMES DURING WINTER.
EVEN THE ROADS FREEZE OVER.
VERY SLIPPERY!
IS THAT THE YUKI-ONNA'S…
SHE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
COME ON, LET'S GO.
CHUG
ガタン
ゴトン
CHUG
ガタン
CHUG
ゴトン…
CHUG

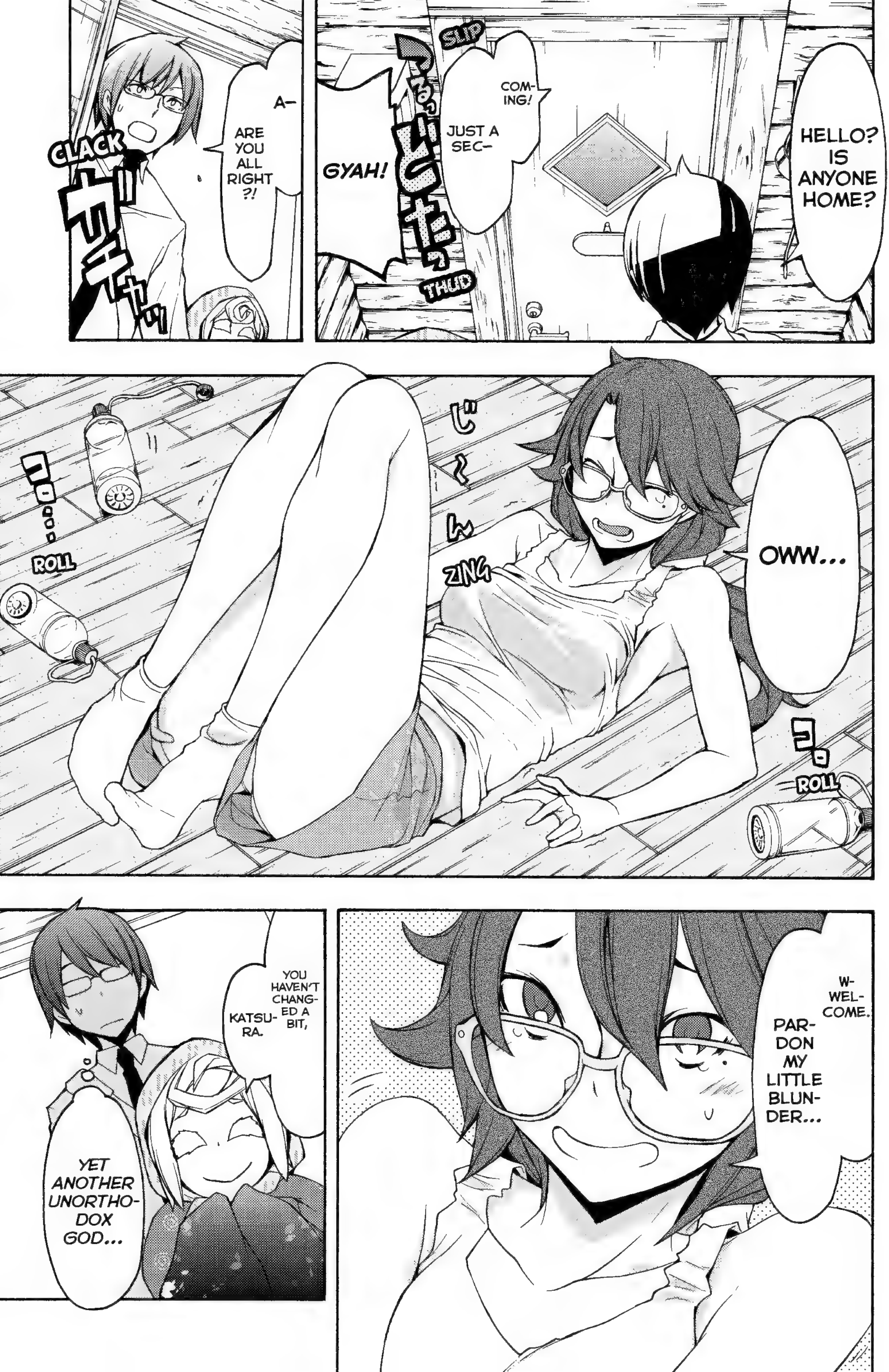


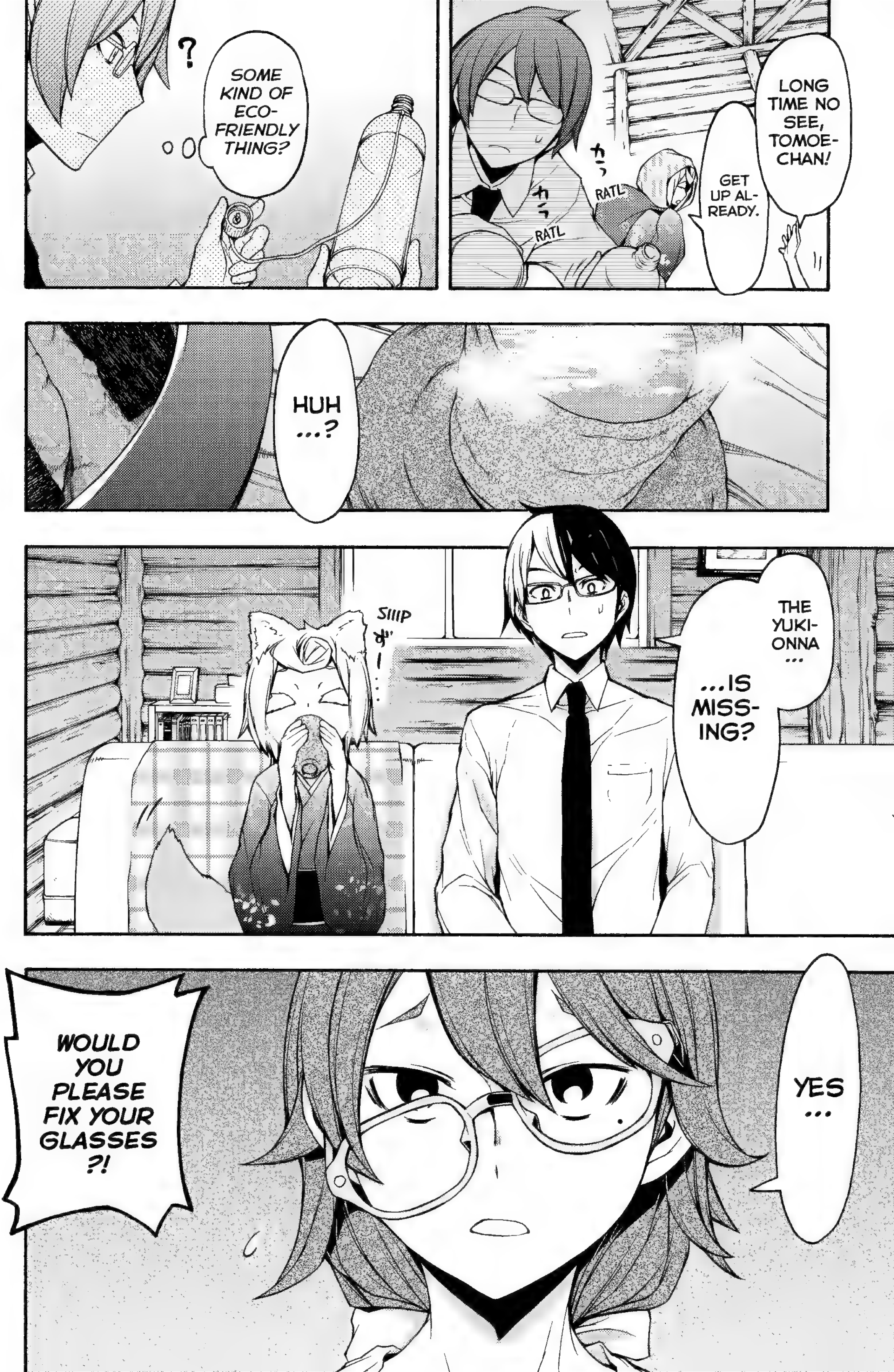

IS THERE A RULE THAT STATES GODS HAVE TO RUN LODGES OR SOMETHING?
ペンション
こぐま荘
OF COURSE NOT. A LOT OF US JUST HAPPEN TO...

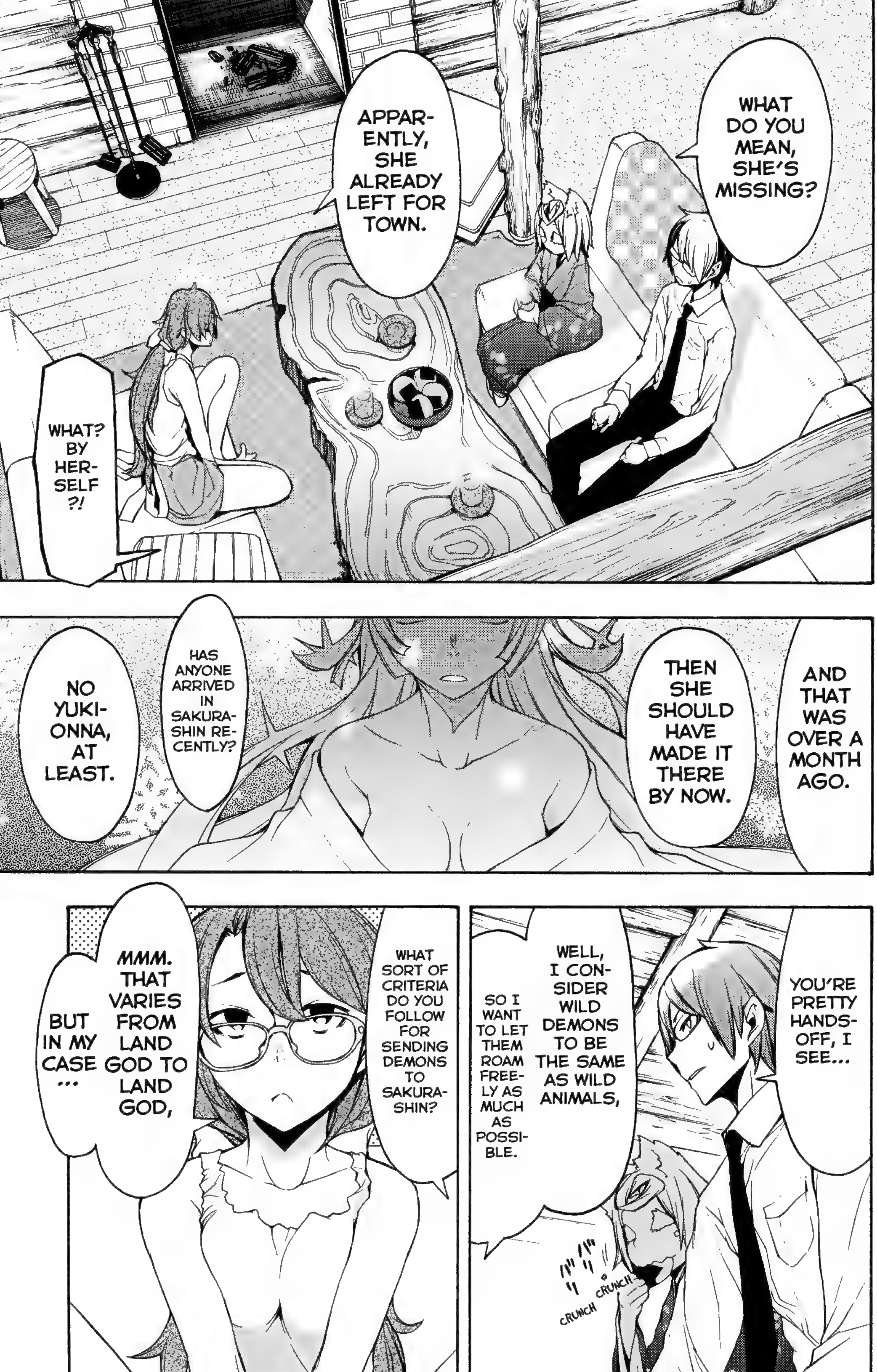
Back: Lodge
Koguma Mano

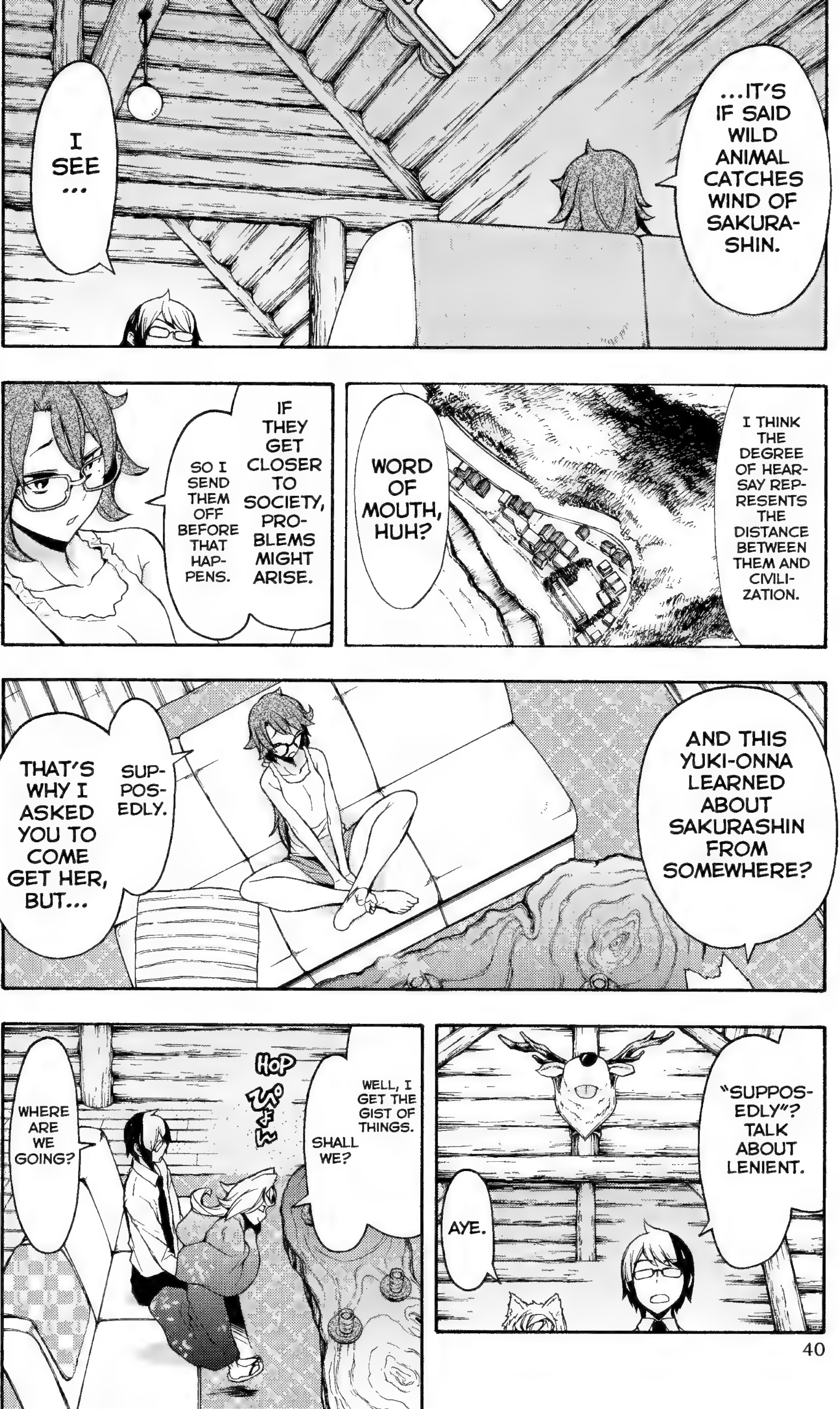

THIS IS SOME HILL...
THEY TRY TO KEEP THE LAND AS UNTOUCHED AS POSSIBLE.
ぴょん
BOING
ぴょこ
BOING

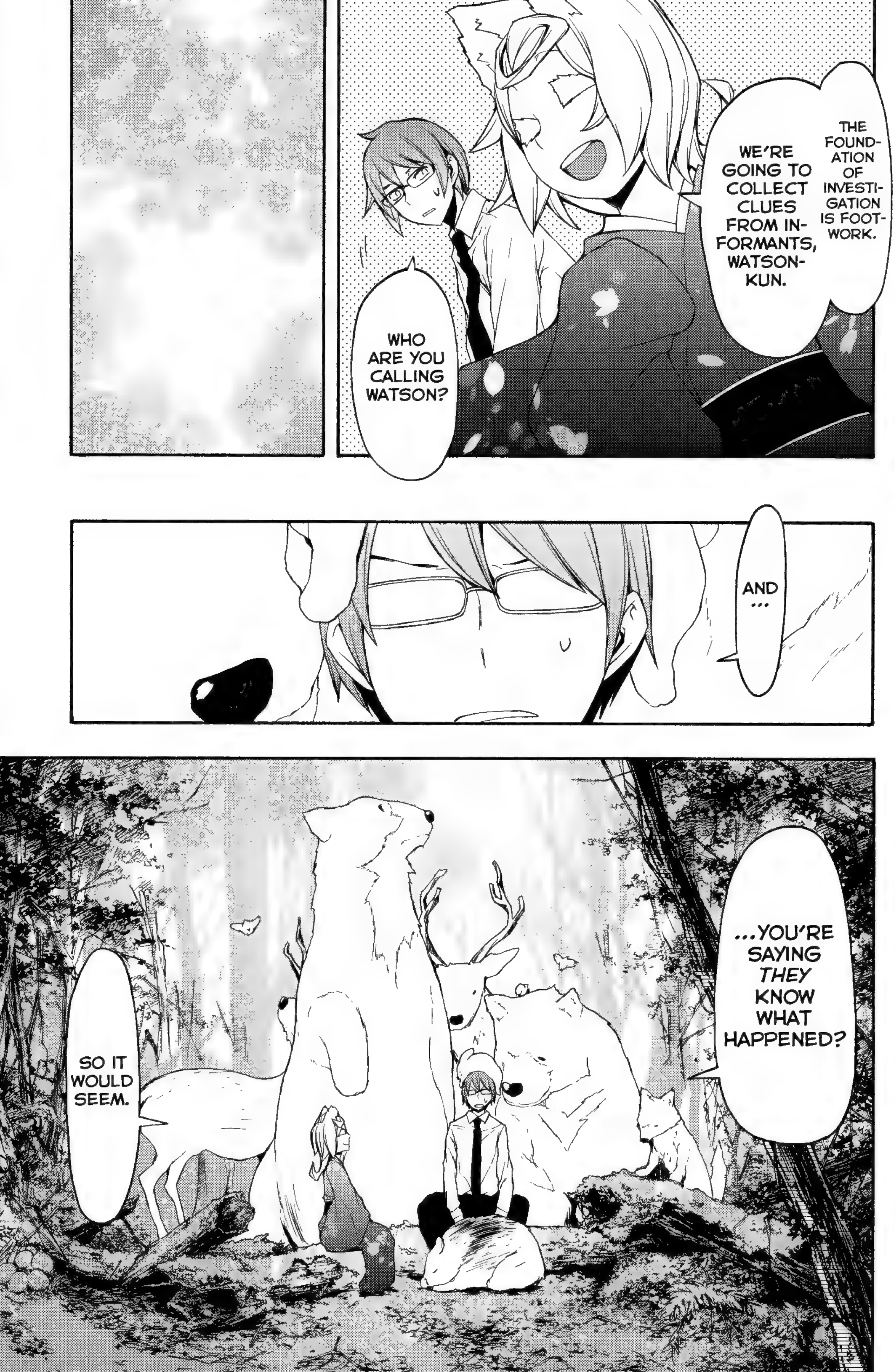

カラン
DING
コロン
DING

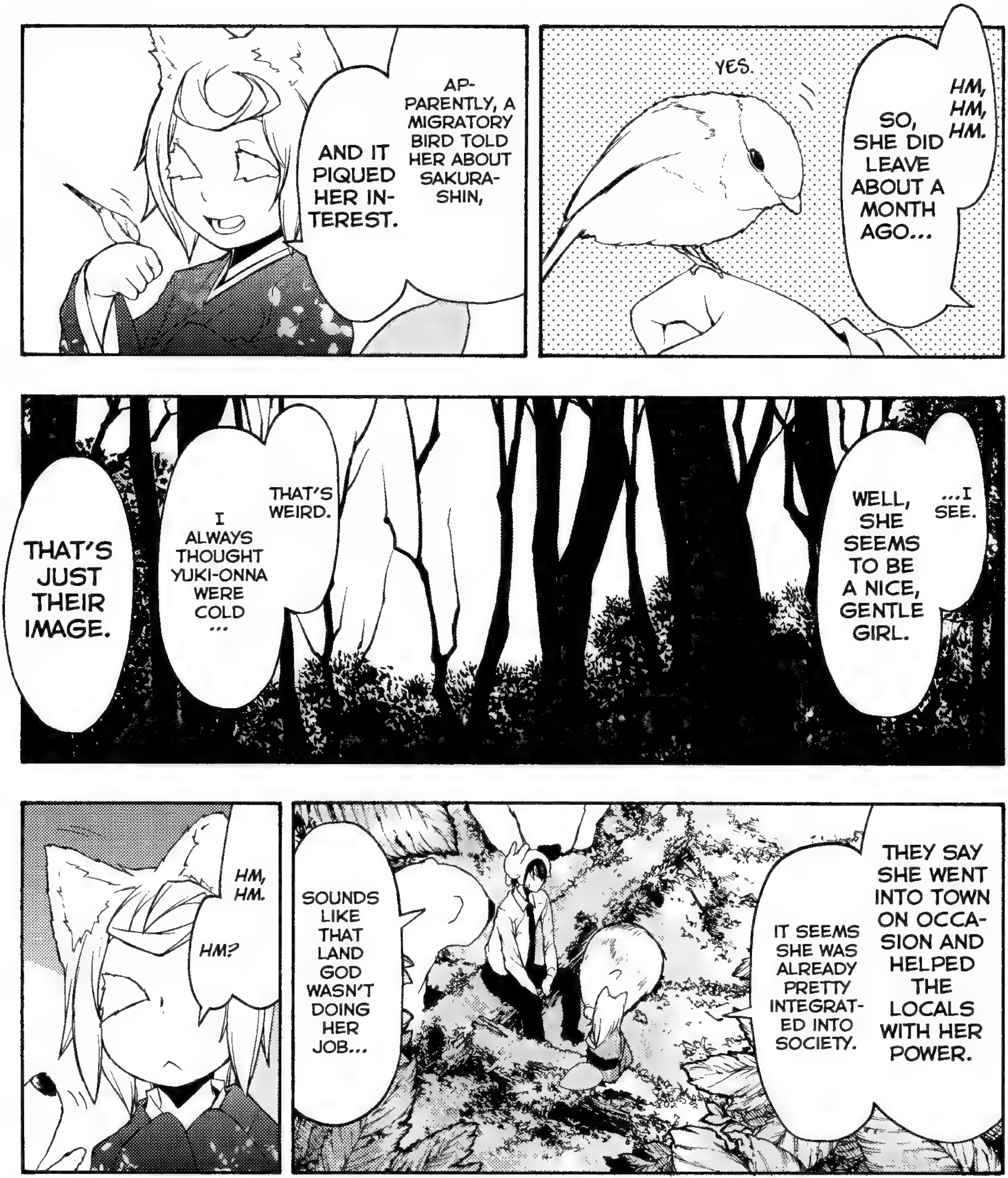

HELLO? IS ANYONE HOME?
COMING! JUST A SEC—
SLIP
つるっ
GYAH!
どしんっ
THUD
A— ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
CLACK
ガチャッ
OWW...
じ～ん
ZING
コロ
ROLL
コロ…
ROLL
W-WELCOME. PARDON MY LITTLE BLUNDER...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, KATSURA.
YET ANOTHER UNORTHODOX GOD...

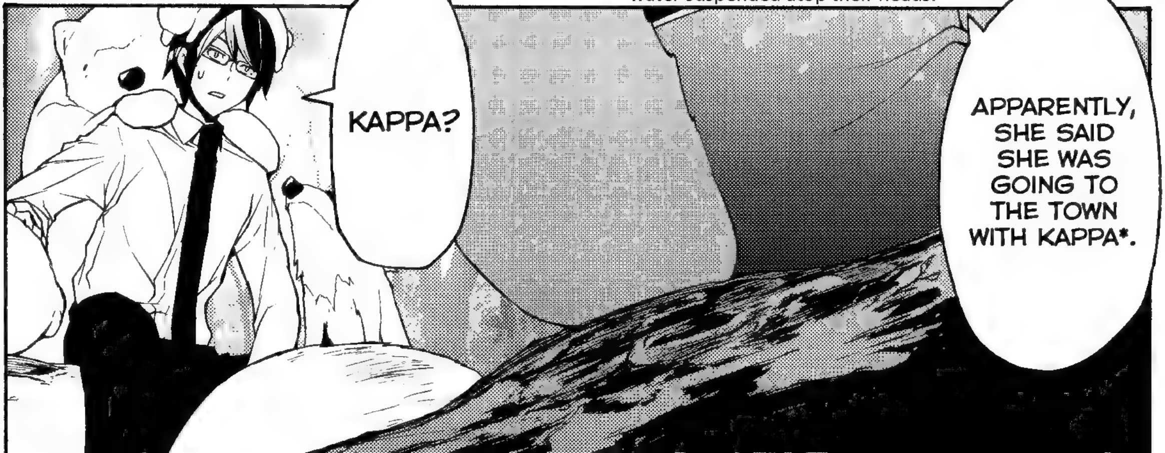

LONG TIME NO SEE, TOMOE-CHAN!
GET UP ALREADY.
カラ RATL
カラ RATL
?
SOME KIND OF ECO-FRIENDLY THING?
HUH ...?
THE YUKI-ONNA ...
...IS MISSING?
SIIIP
ず
YES ...
WOULD YOU PLEASE FIX YOUR GLASSES ?!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SHE'S MISSING?
APPARENTLY, SHE ALREADY LEFT FOR TOWN.
WHAT? BY HERSELF?!
AND THAT WAS OVER A MONTH AGO.
THEN SHE SHOULD HAVE MADE IT THERE BY NOW.
HAS ANYONE ARRIVED IN SAKURA-SHIN RECENTLY?
NO YUKI-ONNA, AT LEAST.
YOU'RE PRETTY HANDS-OFF, I SEE...
WELL, I CONSIDER WILD DEMONS TO BE THE SAME AS WILD ANIMALS,
SO I WANT TO LET THEM ROAM FREELY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
CRUNCH CRUNCH
WHAT SORT OF CRITERIA DO YOU FOLLOW FOR SENDING DEMONS TO SAKURA-SHIN?
MMM. THAT VARIES FROM LAND GOD TO LAND GOD,
BUT IN MY CASE...

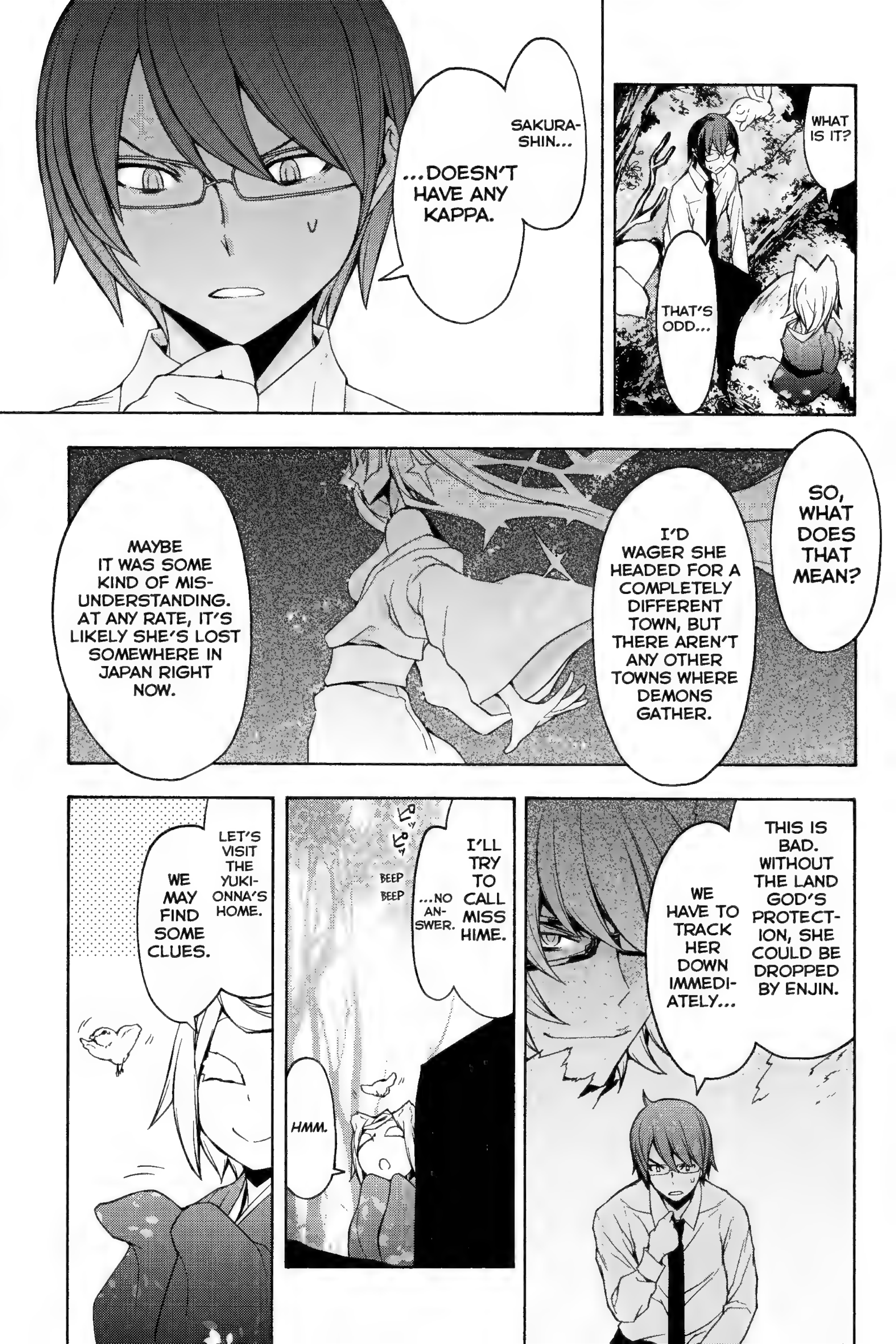

...IT'S IF SAID WILD ANIMAL CATCHES WIND OF SAKURASHIN.
I SEE...
I THINK THE DEGREE OF HEARSAY REPRESENTS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM AND CIVILIZATION.
WORD OF MOUTH, HUH?
IF THEY GET CLOSER TO SOCIETY, PROBLEMS MIGHT ARISE.
SO I SEND THEM OFF BEFORE THAT HAPPENS.
AND THIS YUKI-ONNA LEARNED ABOUT SAKURASHIN FROM SOMEWHERE?
SUPPOSEDLY.
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME GET HER, BUT...
"SUPPOSEDLY"? TALK ABOUT LENIENT.
AYE.
WELL, I GET THE GIST OF THINGS.
SHALL WE?
HOP
ぴょん
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

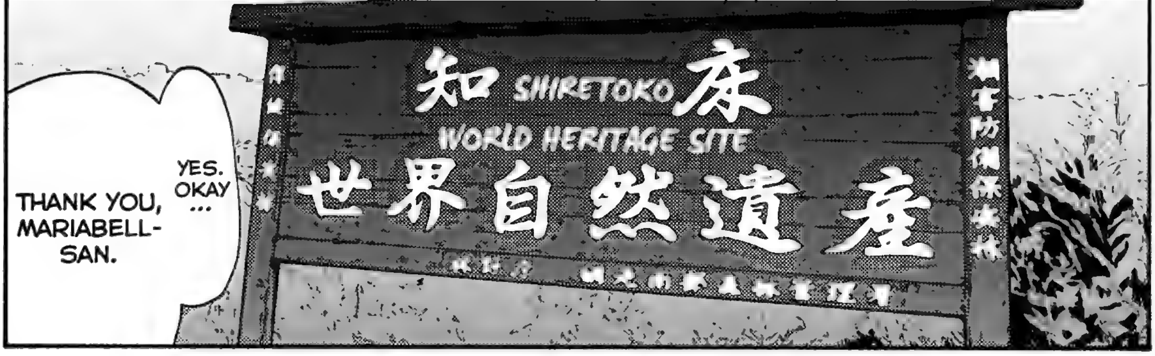

THE FOUNDATION OF INVESTIGATION IS FOOTWORK.
WE'RE GOING TO COLLECT CLUES FROM INFORMANTS, WATSON-KUN.
WHO ARE YOU CALLING WATSON?
AND...
...YOU'RE SAYING *THEY* KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
SO IT WOULD SEEM.

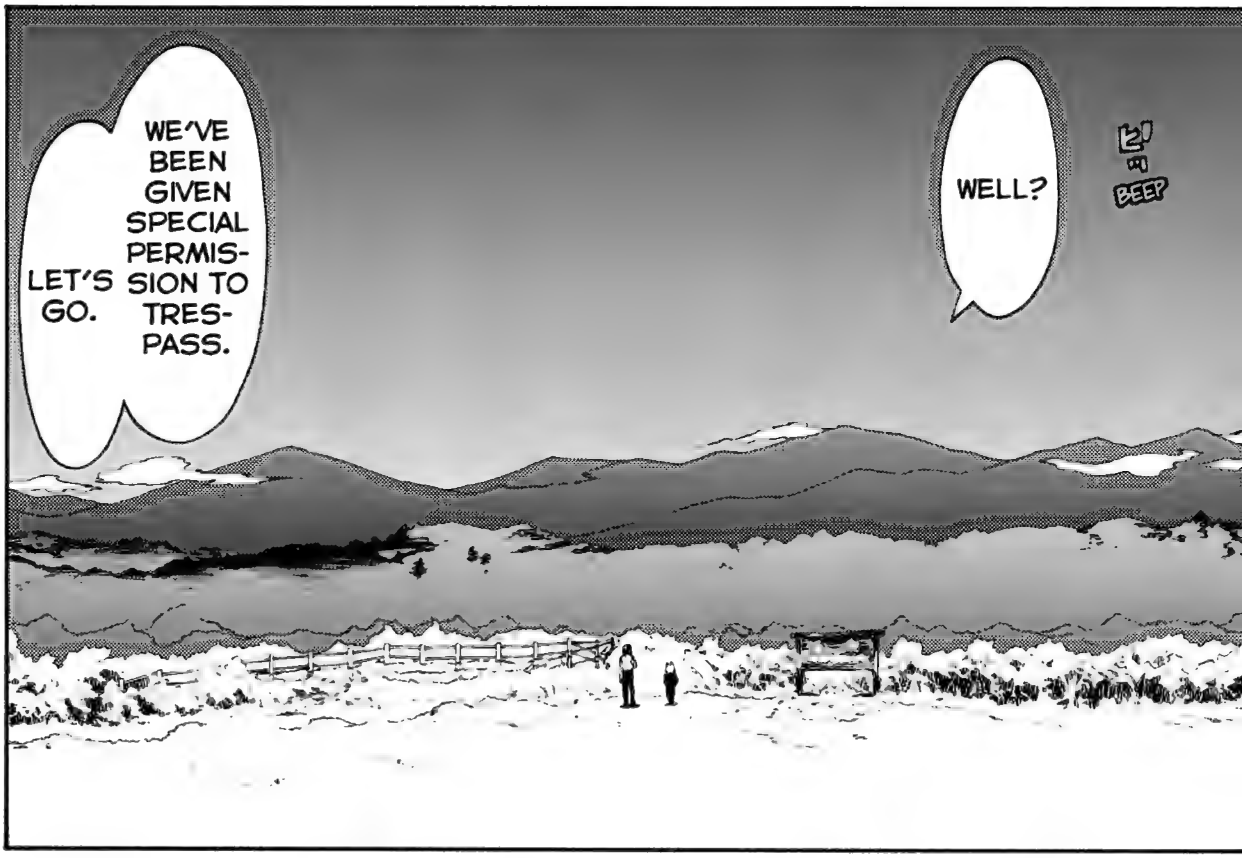

HM, HM, HM.
SO, SHE DID LEAVE ABOUT A MONTH AGO...
YES.
APPARENTLY, A MIGRATORY BIRD TOLD HER ABOUT SAKURASHIN,
AND IT PIQUED HER INTEREST.
...I SEE.
WELL, SHE SEEMS TO BE A NICE, GENTLE GIRL.
THAT'S WEIRD.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YUKI-ONNA WERE COLD...
THAT'S JUST THEIR IMAGE.
THEY SAY SHE WENT INTO TOWN ON OCCASION AND HELPED THE LOCALS WITH HER POWER.
IT SEEMS SHE WAS ALREADY PRETTY INTEGRATED INTO SOCIETY.
SOUNDS LIKE THAT LAND GOD WASN'T DOING HER JOB...
HM, HM.
HM?

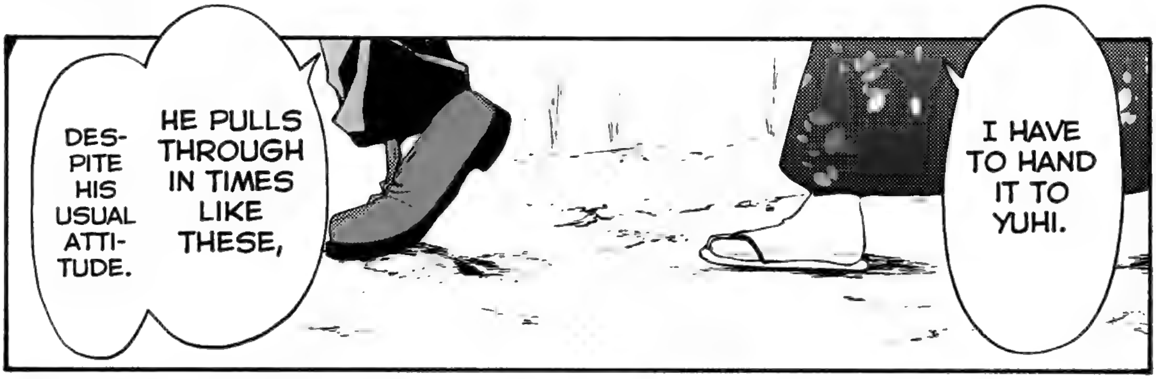

APPARENTLY, SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO THE TOWN WITH KAPPA*.
KAPPA?

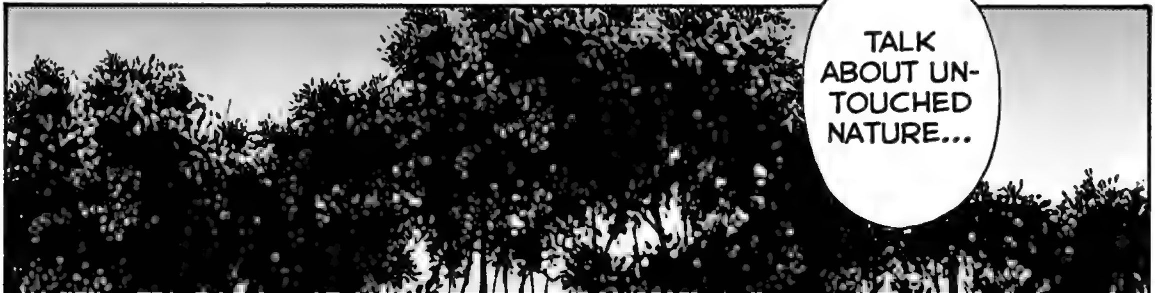
*River demons distinguished by a pool of water suspended atop their heads.

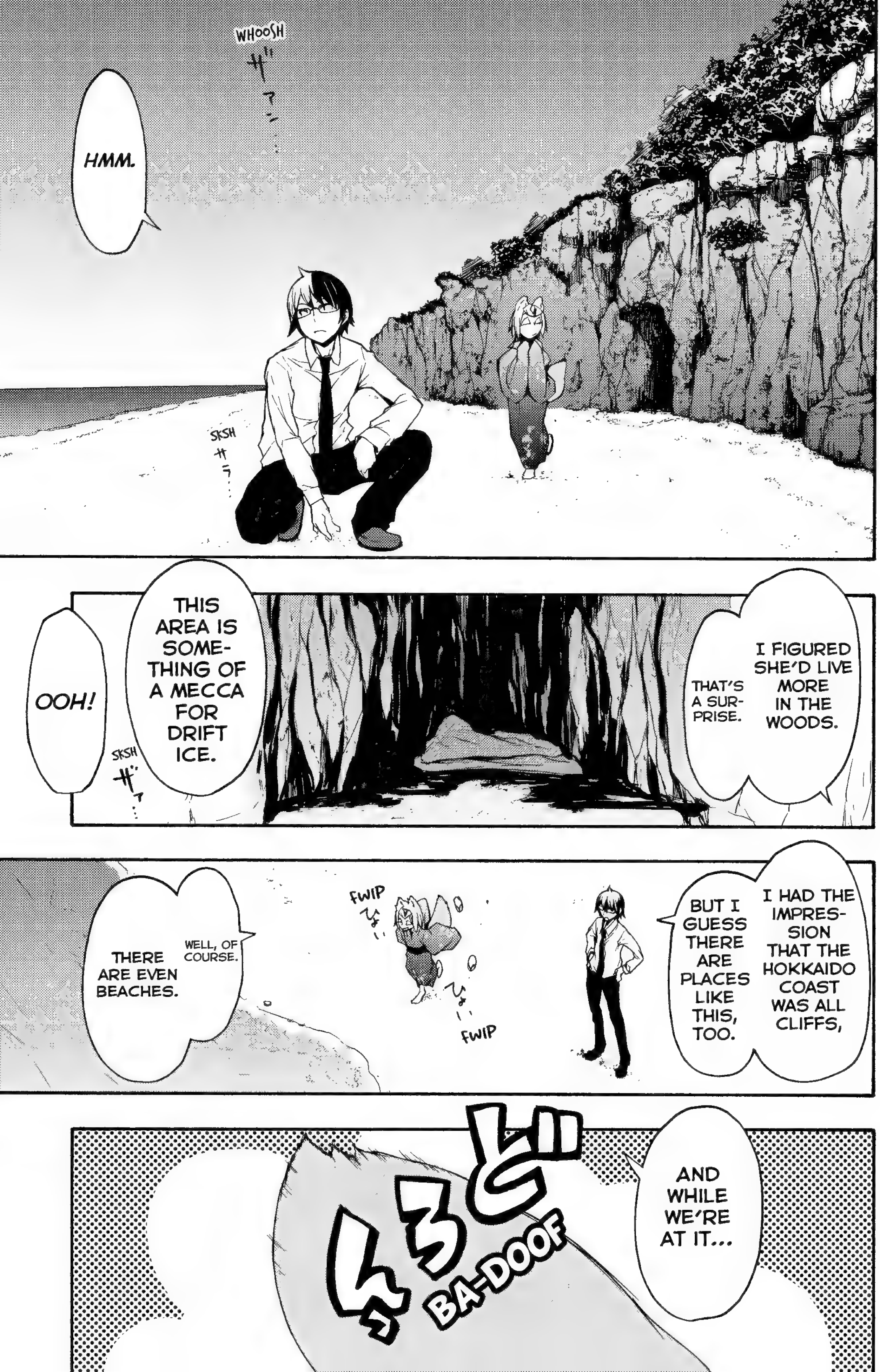

WHAT IS IT?
THAT'S ODD...
SAKURA-SHIN...
...DOESN'T HAVE ANY KAPPA.
SO, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I'D WAGER SHE HEADED FOR A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TOWN, BUT THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER TOWNS WHERE DEMONS GATHER.
MAYBE IT WAS SOME KIND OF MISUNDERSTANDING. AT ANY RATE, IT'S LIKELY SHE'S LOST SOMEWHERE IN JAPAN RIGHT NOW.
THIS IS BAD. WITHOUT THE LAND GOD'S PROTECTION, SHE COULD BE DROPPED BY ENJIN.
WE HAVE TO TRACK HER DOWN IMMEDIATELY...
I'LL TRY TO CALL MISS HIME.
ピッ
ピッ
BEEP BEEP
...NO ANSWER.
HMM.
LET'S VISIT THE YUKI-ONNA'S HOME.
WE MAY FIND SOME CLUES.

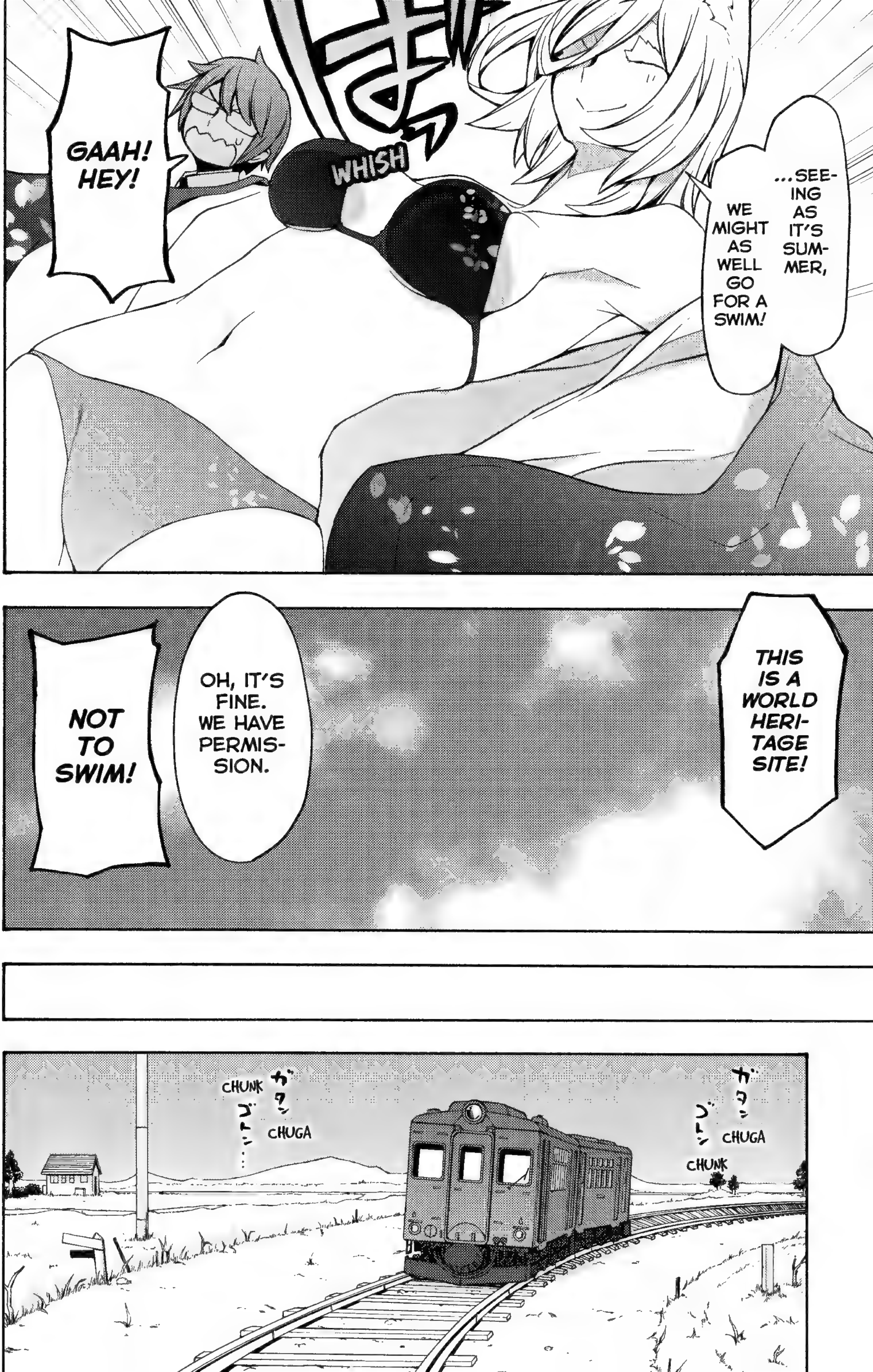

知床 SHIRETOKO
WORLD HERITAGE SITE
世界自然遺産
YES. OKAY...
THANK YOU, MARIABELL-SAN.

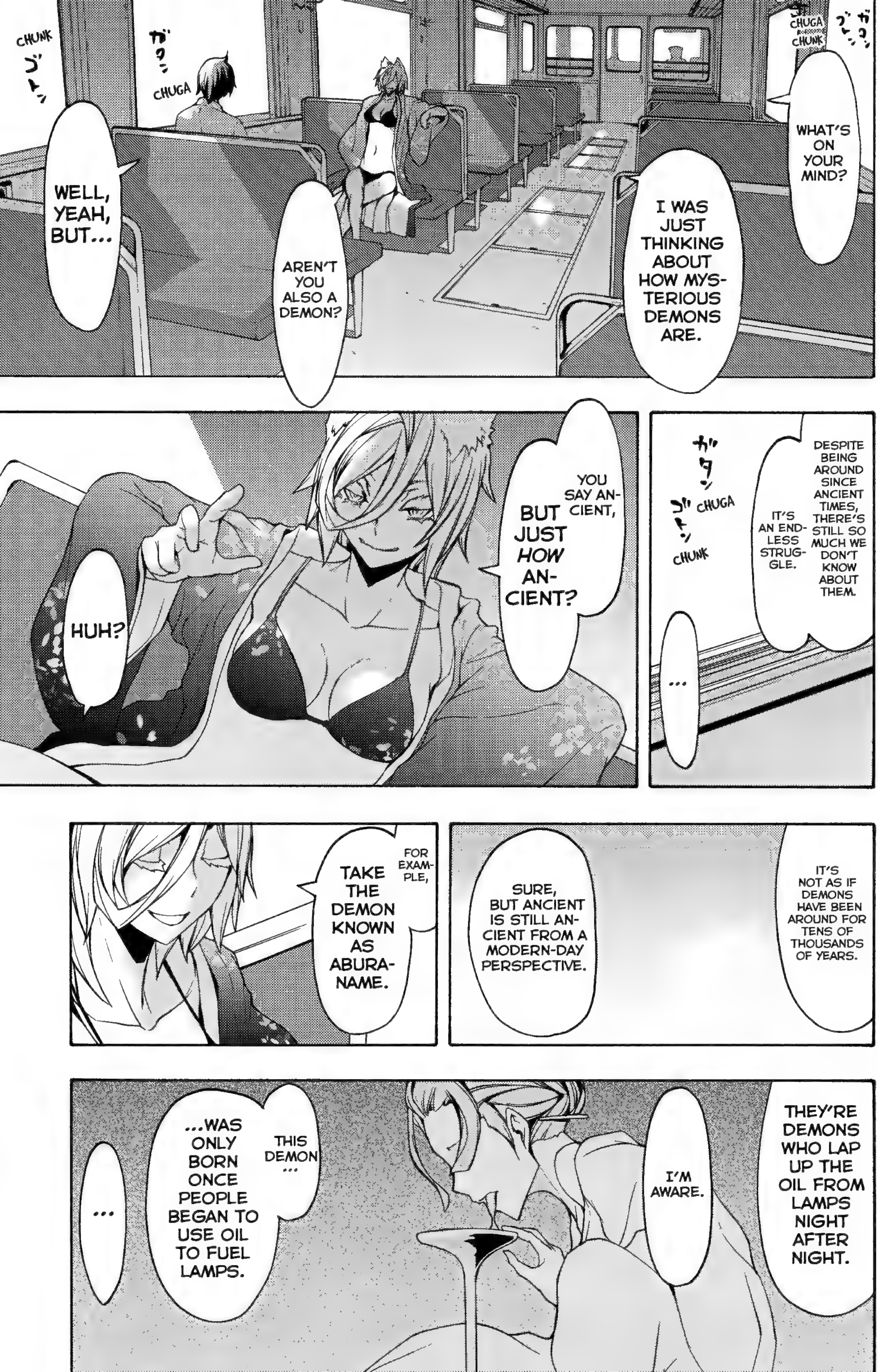

삐 BEEP
WELL?
WE'VE BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL PERMISSION TO TRESPASS.
LET'S GO.

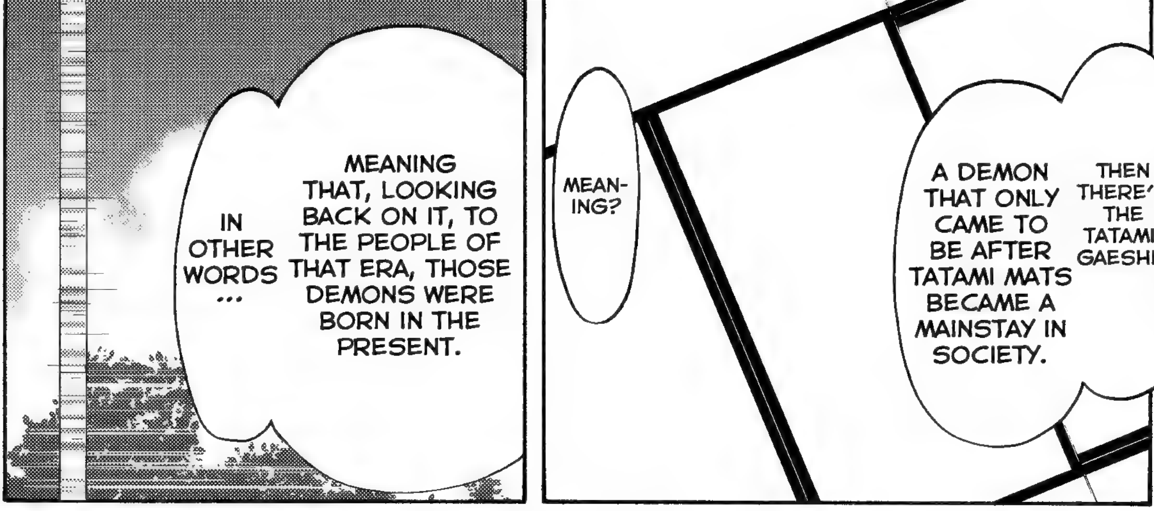

I HAVE TO HAND IT TO YUHI.
HE PULLS THROUGH IN TIMES LIKE THESE,
DESPITE HIS USUAL ATTITUDE.


TALK ABOUT UNTOUCHED NATURE...

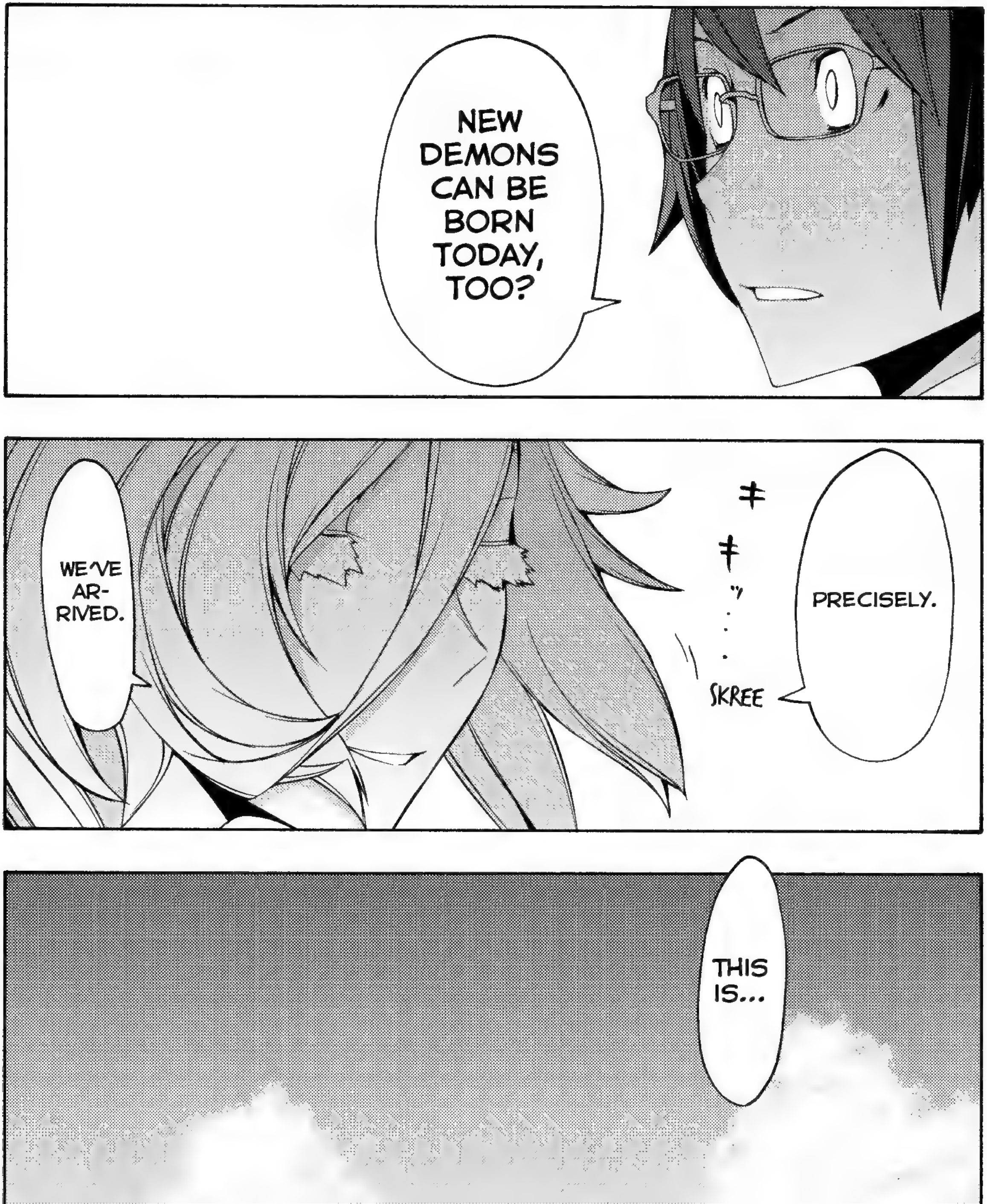

WHOOSH
ザァン…
HMM.
SKSH
サラ…
I FIGURED SHE'D LIVE MORE IN THE WOODS.
THAT'S A SURPRISE.
THIS AREA IS SOMETHING OF A MECCA FOR DRIFT ICE.
OOH!
SKSH
ザァ…
I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE HOKKAIDO COAST WAS ALL CLIFFS,
BUT I GUESS THERE ARE PLACES LIKE THIS, TOO.
FWIP
ぴょい
ぴょい
FWIP
WELL, OF COURSE.
THERE ARE EVEN BEACHES.
AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT...
ふろど
BA-DOOF

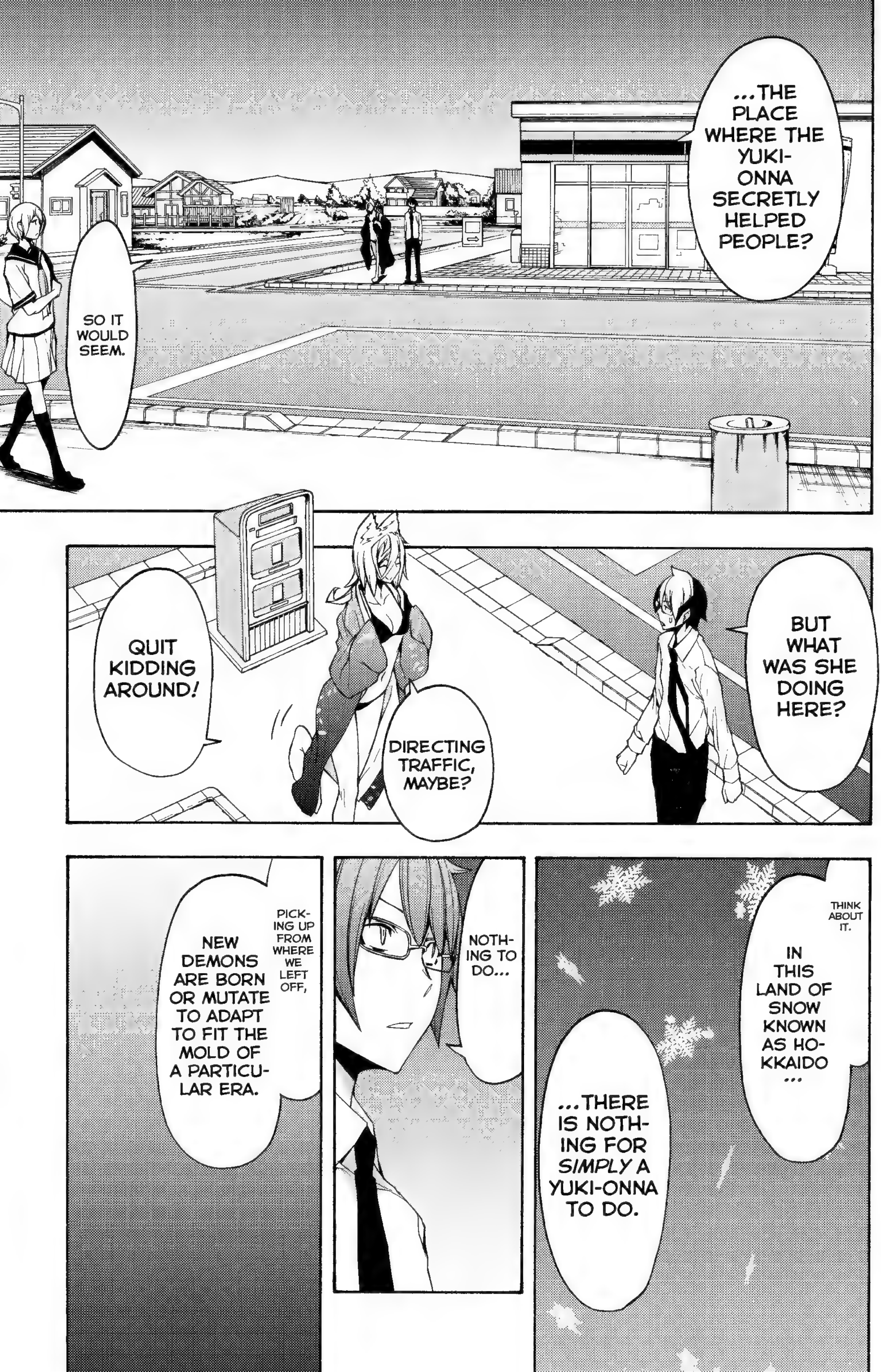

...SEEING AS IT'S SUMMER,
WE MIGHT AS WELL GO FOR A SWIM!
ばっ
WHISH
GAAH! HEY!
THIS IS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE!
OH, IT'S FINE. WE HAVE PERMISSION.
NOT TO SWIM!
ガタン ゴトン
CHUGA
CHUNK
ガタン ゴトン...
CHUGA
CHUNK

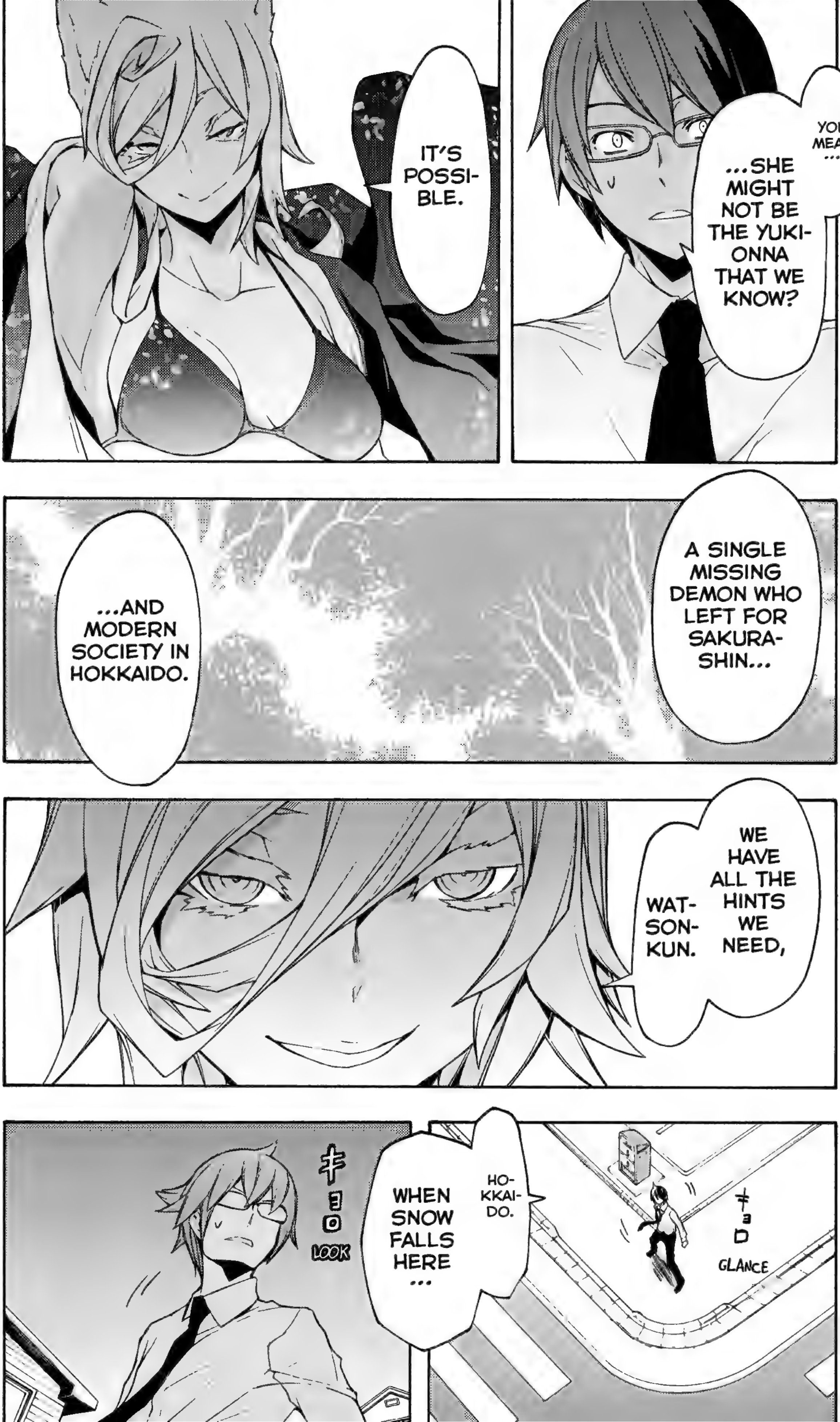

ガタン
ゴトン
CHUGA
CHUNK
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW MYSTERIOUS DEMONS ARE.
AREN'T YOU ALSO A DEMON?
WELL, YEAH, BUT...
ガタン
CHUGA
ゴトン
CHUNK
DESPITE BEING AROUND SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, THERE'S STILL SO MUCH WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM.
IT'S AN ENDLESS STRUGGLE.
ガタン
CHUGA
ゴトン
CHUNK
...
YOU SAY ANCIENT,
BUT JUST *HOW* ANCIENT?
HUH?
IT'S NOT AS IF DEMONS HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS.
SURE, BUT ANCIENT IS STILL ANCIENT FROM A MODERN-DAY PERSPECTIVE.
FOR EXAMPLE,
TAKE THE DEMON KNOWN AS ABURANAME.
THEY'RE DEMONS WHO LAP UP THE OIL FROM LAMPS NIGHT AFTER NIGHT.
I'M AWARE.
THIS DEMON...
...WAS ONLY BORN ONCE PEOPLE BEGAN TO USE OIL TO FUEL LAMPS.
...

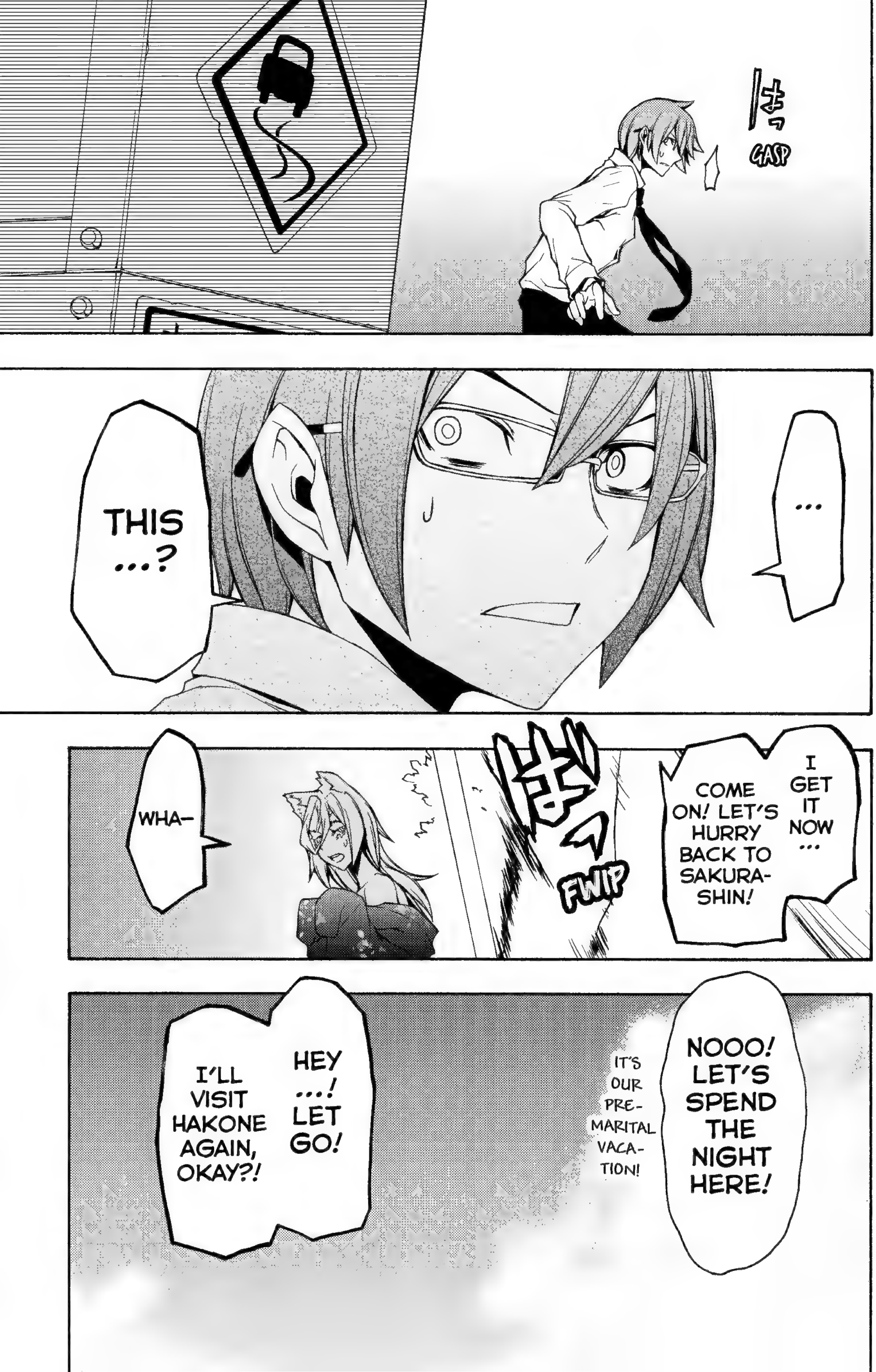

THEN THERE'S THE TATAMI-GAESHI*,
A DEMON THAT ONLY CAME TO BE AFTER TATAMI MATS BECAME A MAINSTAY IN SOCIETY.
MEANING?
MEANING THAT, LOOKING BACK ON IT, TO THE PEOPLE OF THAT ERA, THOSE DEMONS WERE BORN IN THE PRESENT.
IN OTHER WORDS...

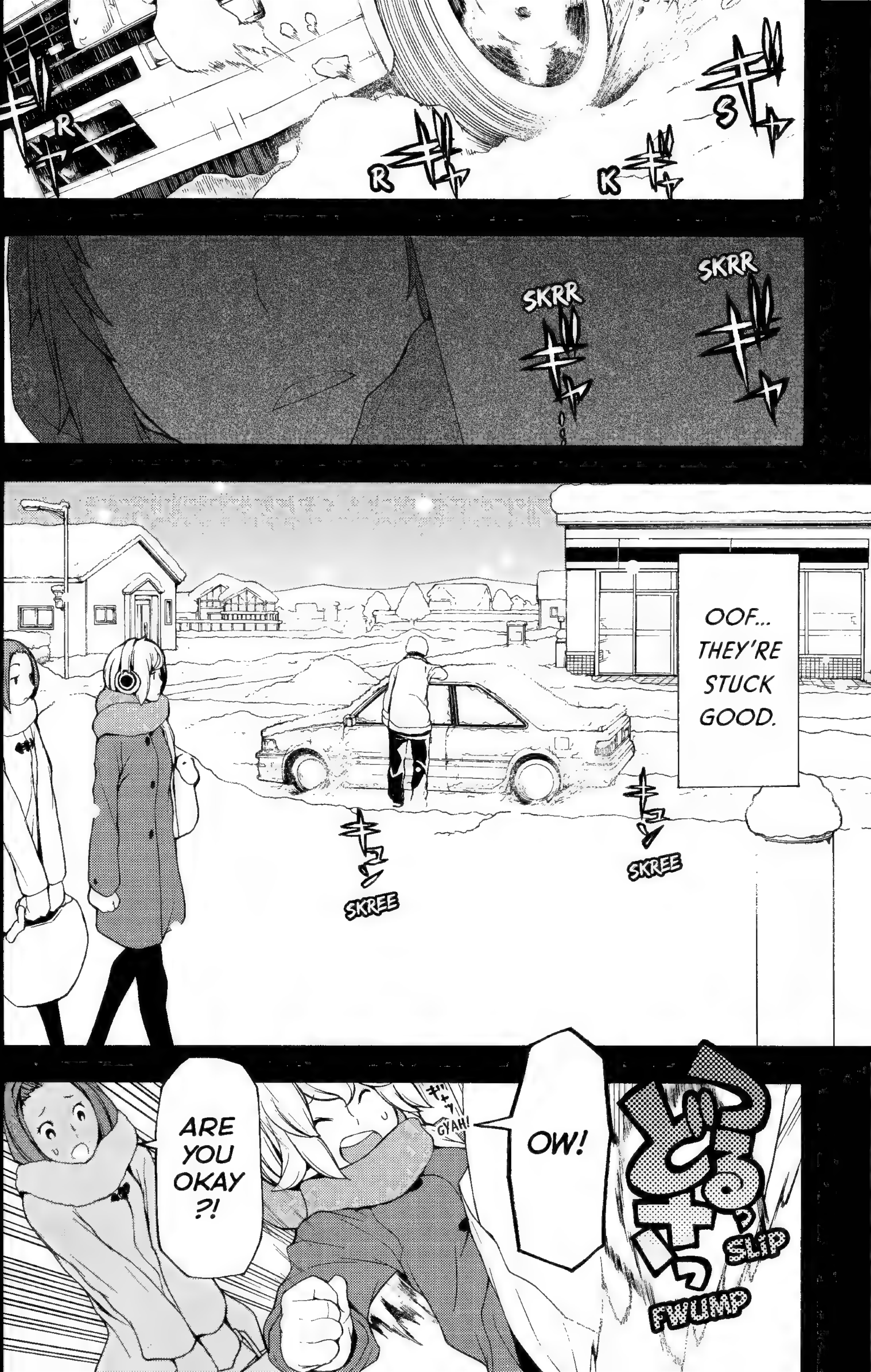
*Mischievous spirits who flip tatami mats in people's homes.

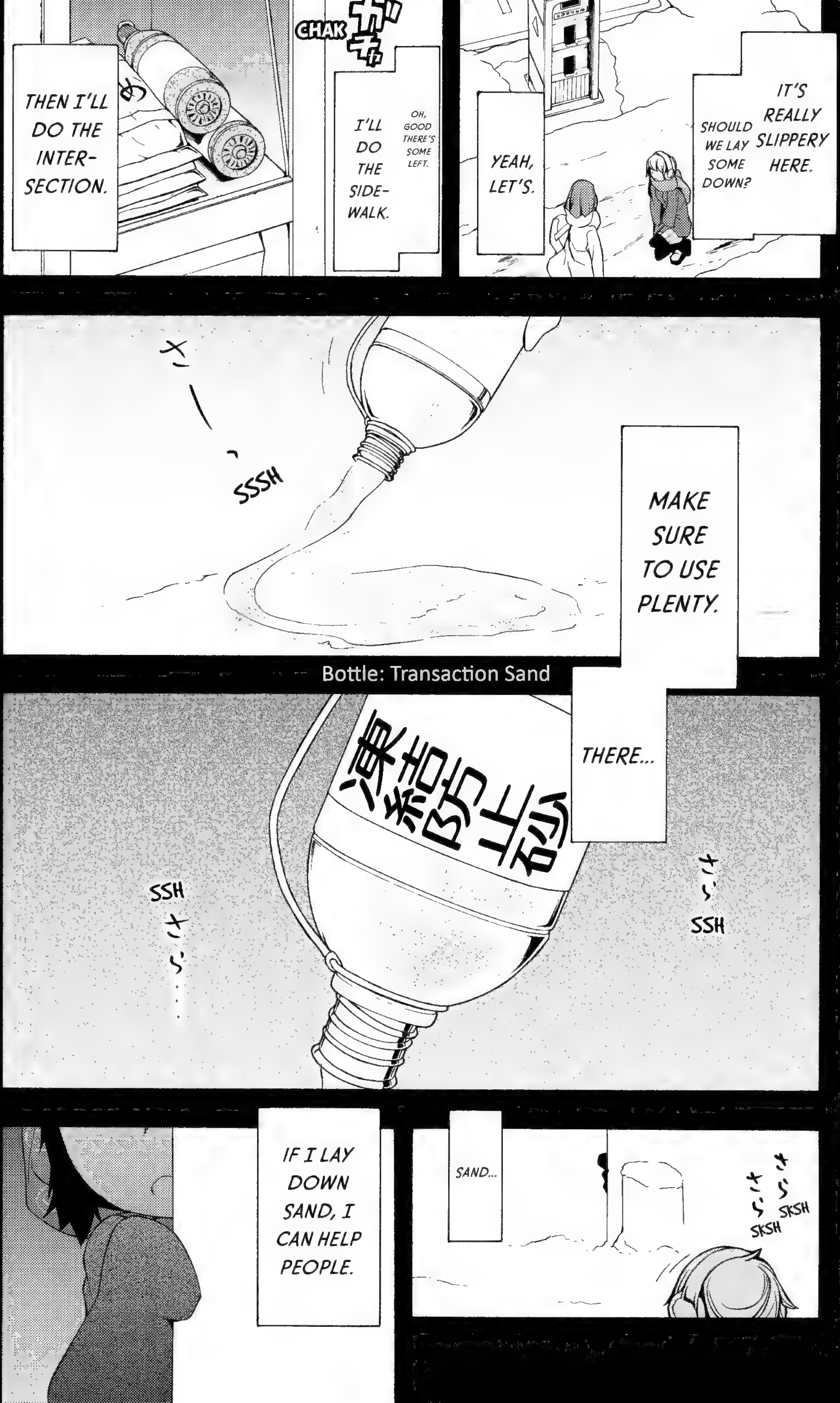

NEW DEMONS CAN BE BORN TODAY, TOO?
PRECISELY.
キキッ...
SKREE
WE'VE ARRIVED.
THIS IS...

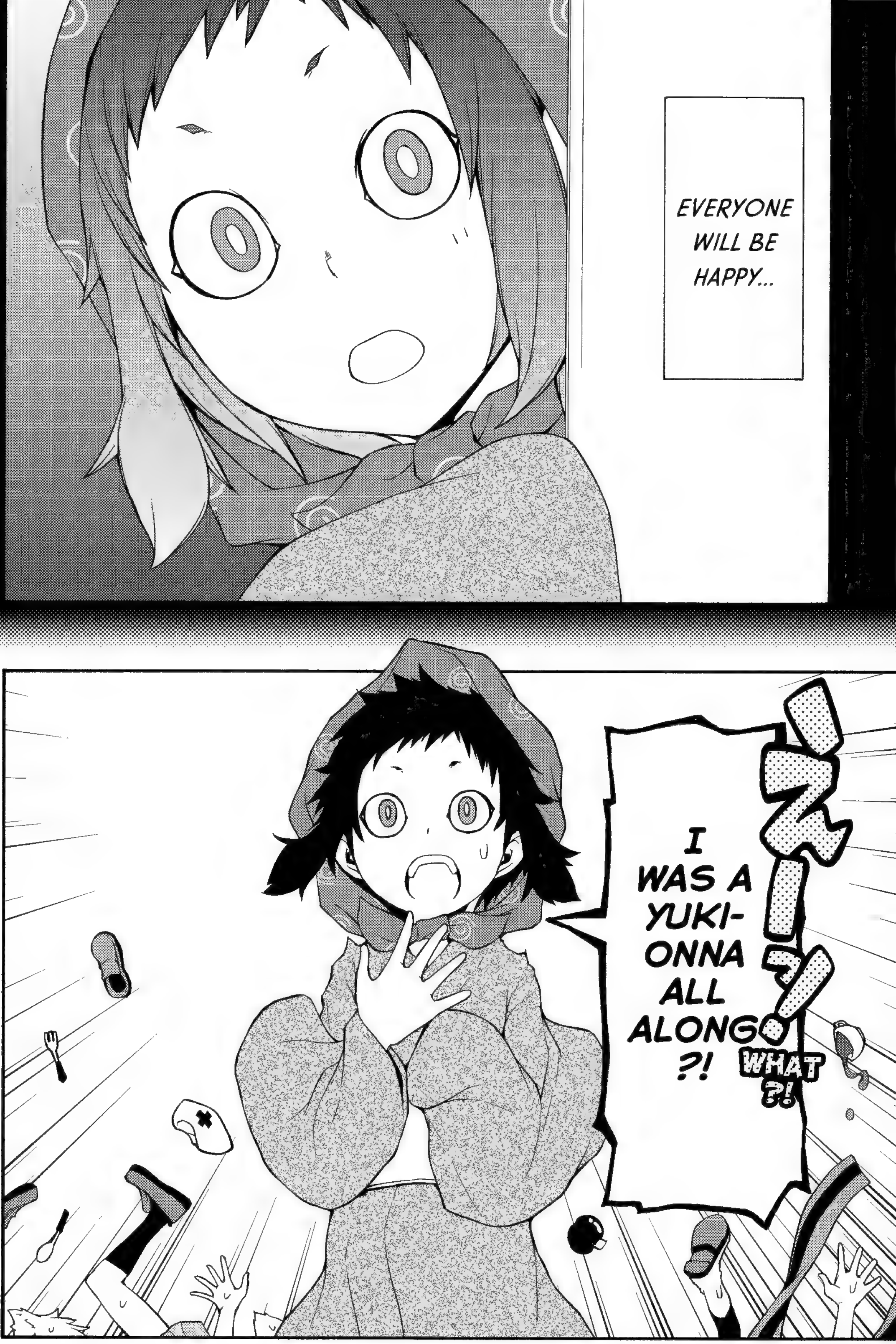

...THE PLACE WHERE THE YUKI-ONNA SECRETLY HELPED PEOPLE?
SO IT WOULD SEEM.
BUT WHAT WAS SHE DOING HERE?
DIRECTING TRAFFIC, MAYBE?
QUIT KIDDING AROUND!
THINK ABOUT IT.
IN THIS LAND OF SNOW KNOWN AS HOKKAIDO...
...THERE IS NOTHING FOR *SIMPLY* A YUKI-ONNA TO DO.
NOTHING TO DO...
PICKING UP FROM WHERE WE LEFT OFF,
NEW DEMONS ARE BORN OR MUTATE TO ADAPT TO FIT THE MOLD OF A PARTICULAR ERA.

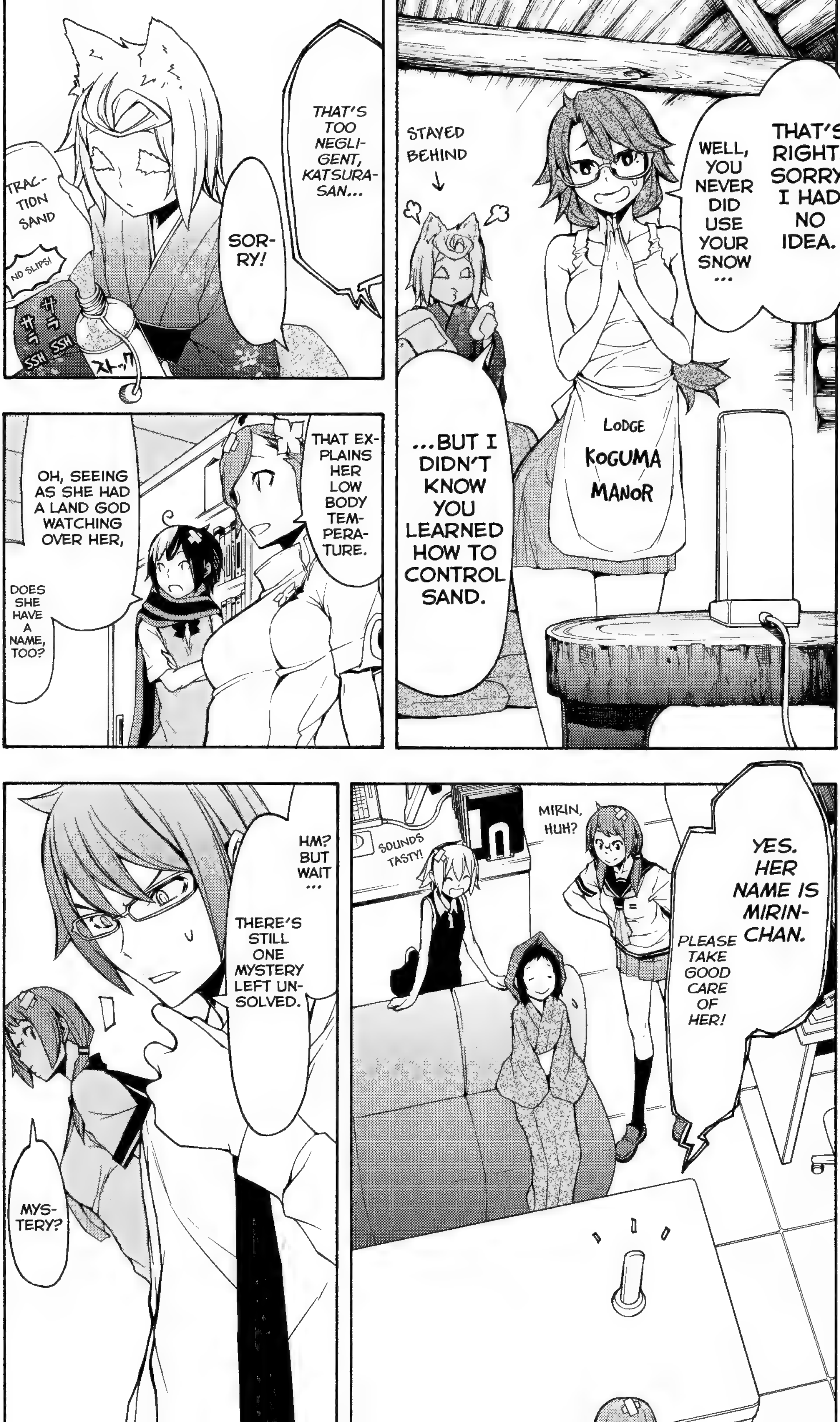

YOU MEAN…
…SHE MIGHT NOT BE THE YUKI-ONNA THAT WE KNOW?
IT'S POSSIBLE.
A SINGLE MISSING DEMON WHO LEFT FOR SAKURASHIN…
…AND MODERN SOCIETY IN HOKKAIDO.
WE HAVE ALL THE HINTS WE NEED,
WATSON-KUN.
HOKKAIDO.
キョロ
GLANCE
WHEN SNOW FALLS HERE…
キョロ
LOOK

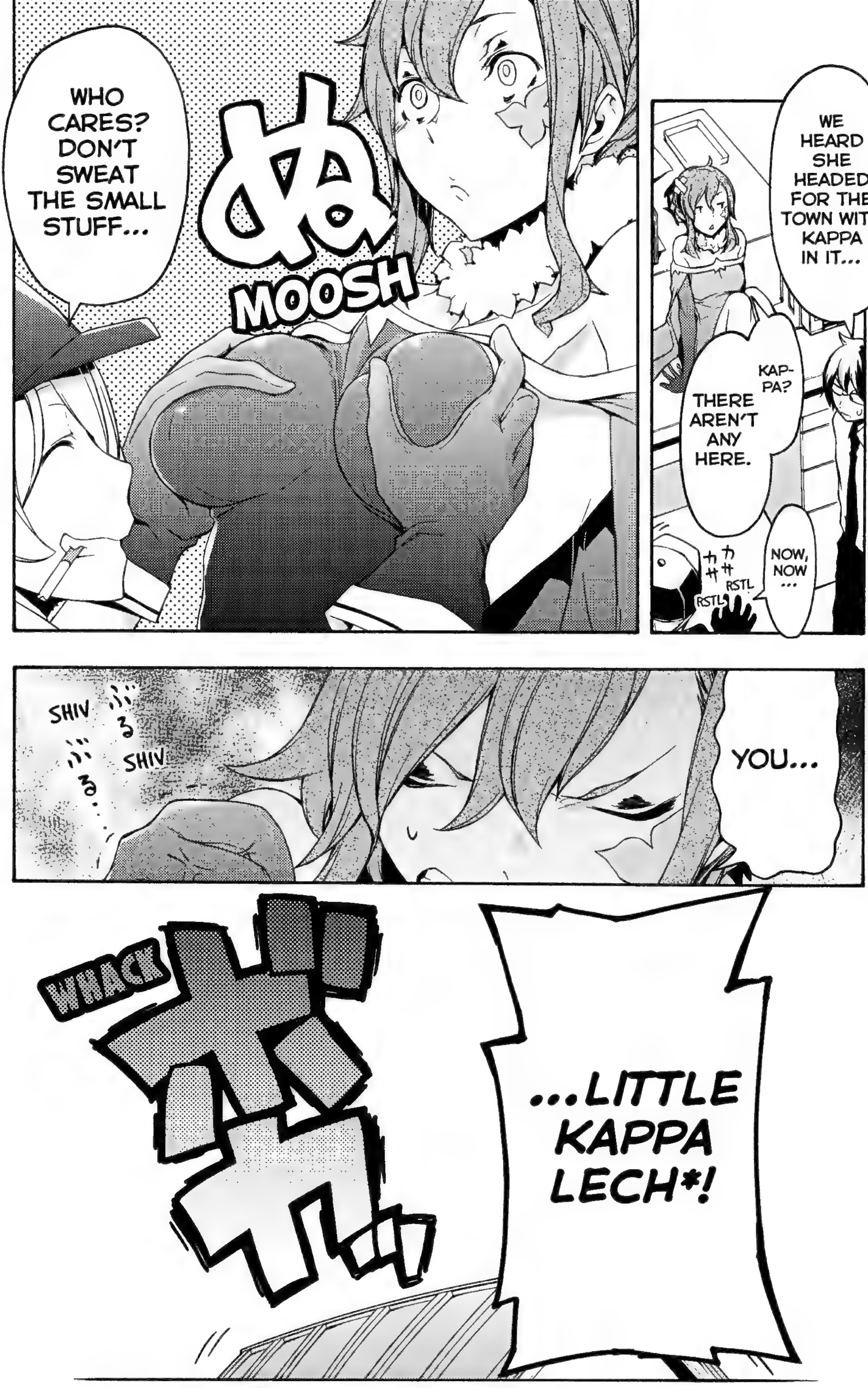

はっ
GASP
...
THIS ...?
I GET IT NOW ...
COME ON! LET'S HURRY BACK TO SAKURA-SHIN!
はっ
FWIP
WHA-
NOOO! LET'S SPEND THE NIGHT HERE!
IT'S OUR PRE-MARITAL VACATION!
HEY ...! LET GO!
I'LL VISIT HAKONE AGAIN, OKAY?!


S
K
R
R
SKRR
SKRR
OOF... THEY'RE STUCK GOOD.
SKREE
SKREE
SLIP
FWUMP
OW!
GYAH!
ARE YOU OKAY?!


IT'S REALLY SLIPPERY HERE.
SHOULD WE LAY SOME DOWN?
YEAH, LET'S.
ガチャ
CHAK
OH, GOOD THERE'S SOME LEFT.
I'LL DO THE SIDEWALK.
THEN I'LL DO THE INTERSECTION.
さー、
SSSH
MAKE SURE TO USE PLENTY.
Bottle: Transaction Sand
THERE...
凍結防止砂
さら
SSH
SSH
さら…
さら
SKSH
さら
SKSH
SAND...
IF I LAY DOWN SAND, I CAN HELP PEOPLE.


EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY...
えーっ!!
WHAT ?!
I WAS A YUKI-ONNA ALL ALONG ?!


THAT'S RIGHT. SORRY, I HAD NO IDEA.
WELL, YOU NEVER DID USE YOUR SNOW...
STAYED BEHIND
...BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LEARNED HOW TO CONTROL SAND.
LODGE KOGUMA MANOR
THAT'S TOO NEGLIGENT, KATSURA-SAN...
SORRY!
TRACTION SAND
NO SLIPS!
サラ サラ
SSH SSH
ストッ
THAT EXPLAINS HER LOW BODY TEMPERATURE.
OH, SEEING AS SHE HAD A LAND GOD WATCHING OVER HER,
DOES SHE HAVE A NAME, TOO?
YES. HER NAME IS MIRIN-CHAN.
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER!
MIRIN, HUH?
SOUNDS TASTY!
HM? BUT WAIT...
THERE'S STILL ONE MYSTERY LEFT UNSOLVED.
MYSTERY?


WE HEARD SHE HEADED FOR THE TOWN WITH KAPPA IN IT...
KAP-PA?
THERE AREN'T ANY HERE.
NOW, NOW...
カサ カサ RSTL RSTL
WHO CARES? DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF...
ぬ MOOSH
YOU...
ぶる ぶる SHIV SHIV
...LITTLE KAPPA LECH*!
WHACK

101st NIGHT SANDSTORM END

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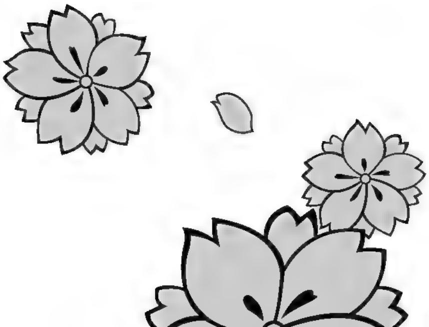
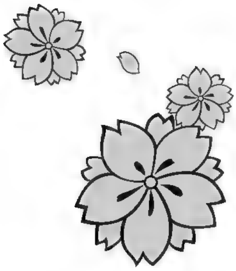
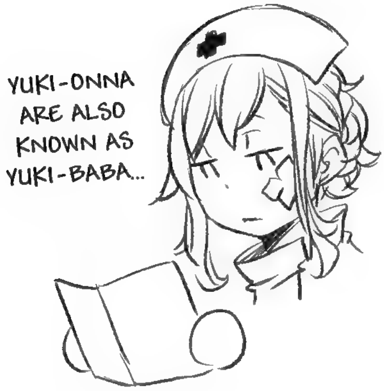
*Alternatively *erogappa*, a term used to describe perverts resembling kappa, often bald.

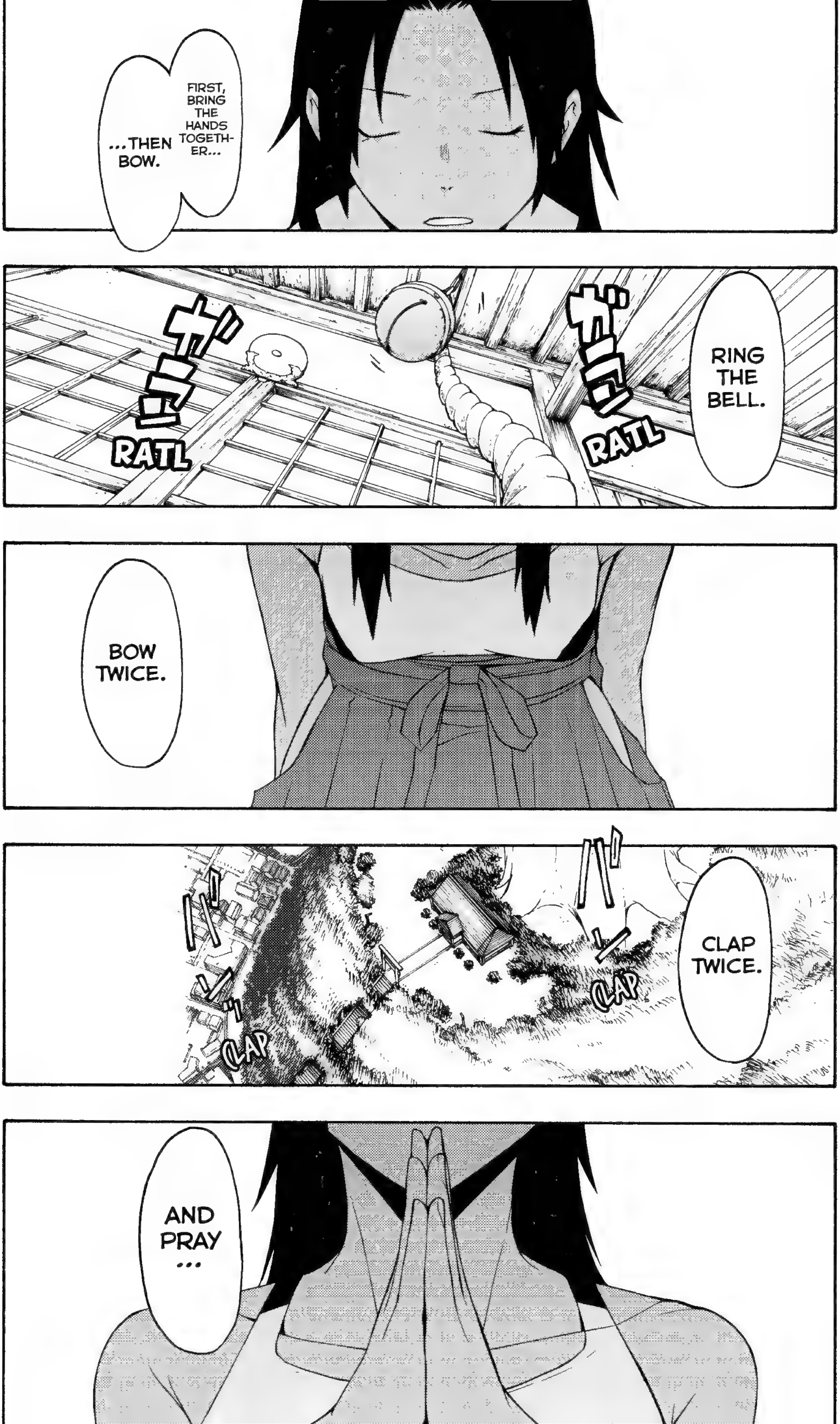


YOZAKURA QUARTET 18

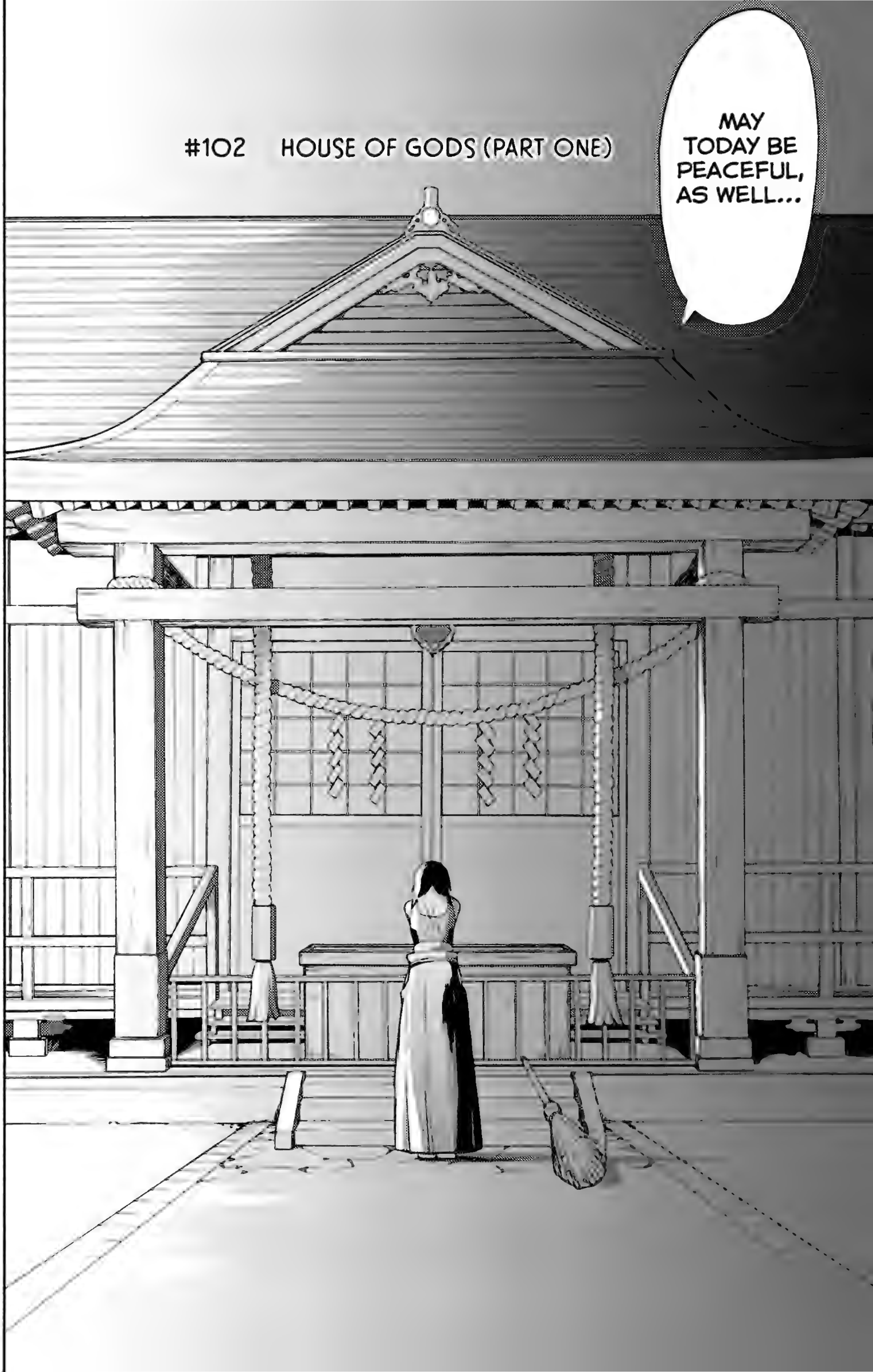


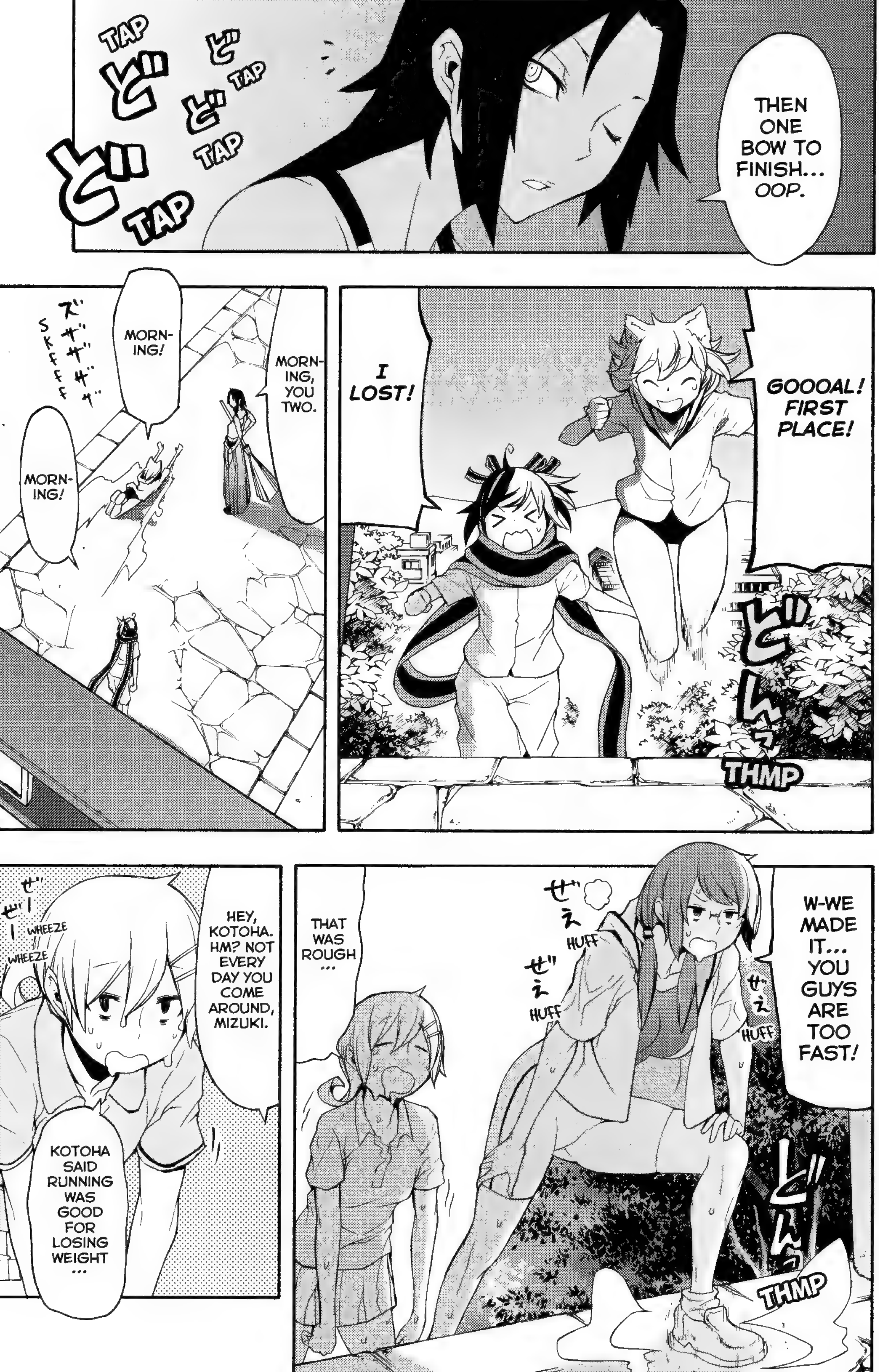
YOZAKURA QUARTET 18

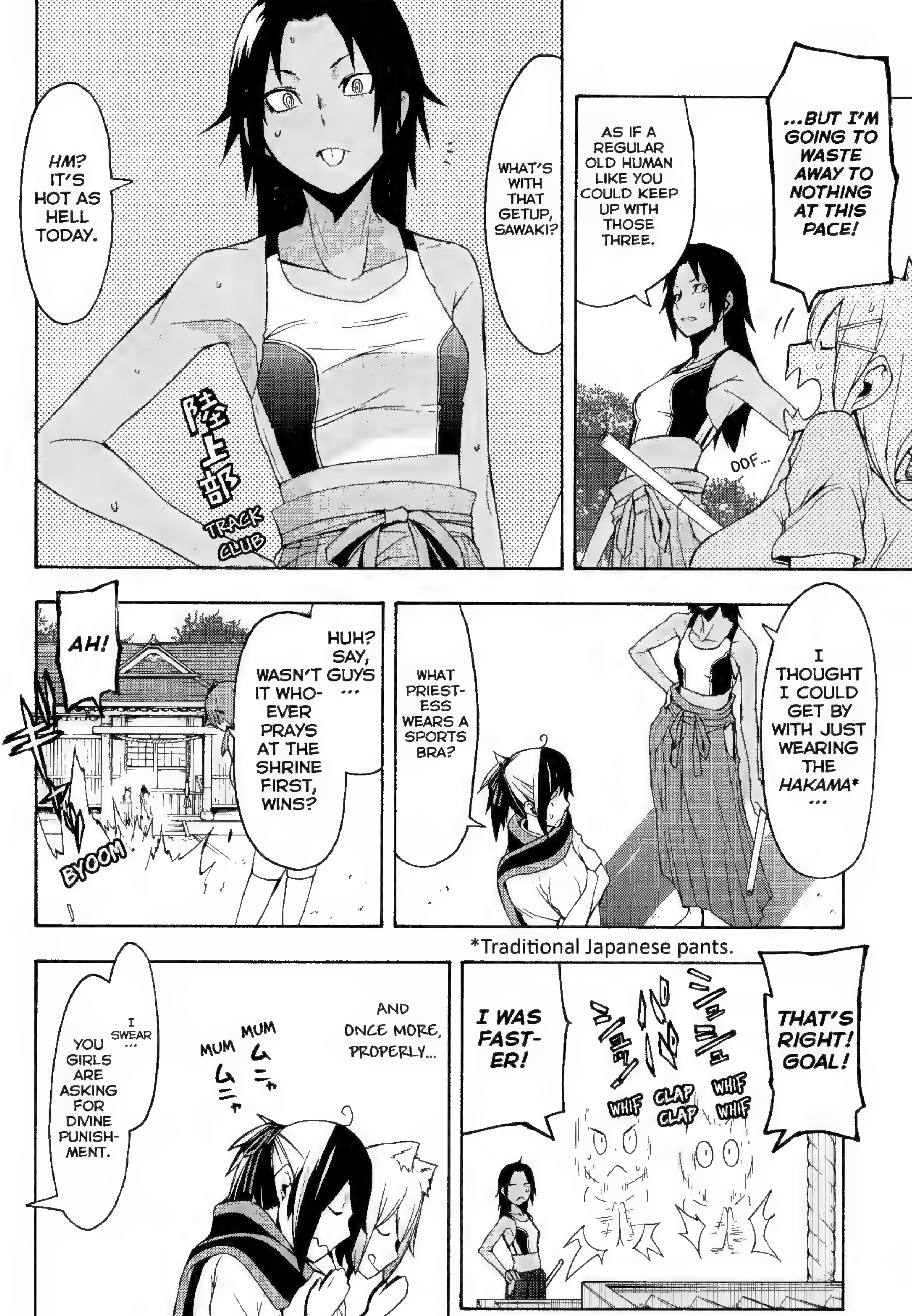

YUKI-ONNA ARE ALSO KNOWN AS YUKI-BABA...


FIRST, BRING THE HANDS TOGETHER...
...THEN BOW.
RING THE BELL.
RATL
RATL
BOW TWICE.
CLAP TWICE.
CLAP
CLAP
AND PRAY...

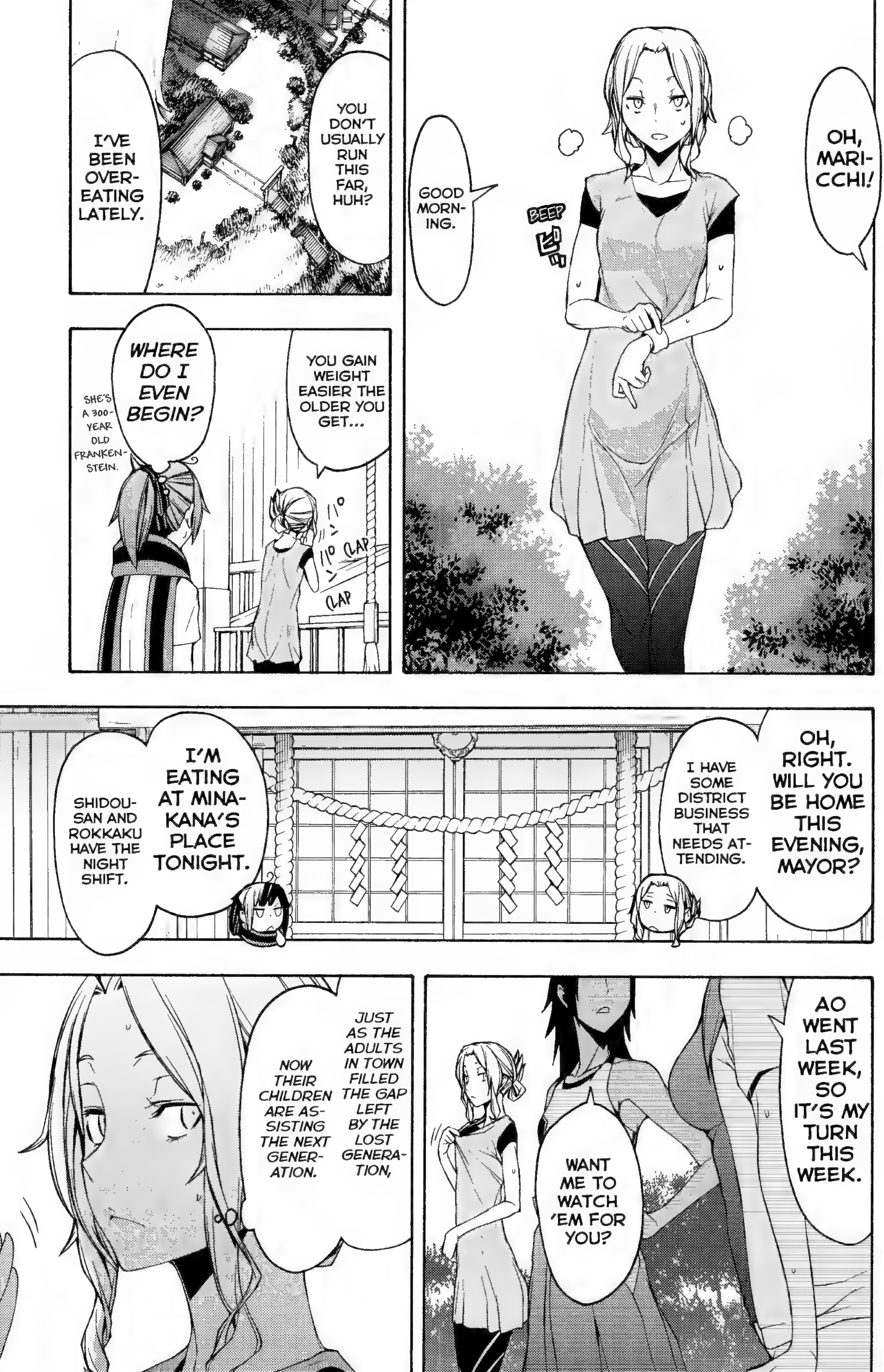
#102 HOUSE OF GODS (PART ONE)

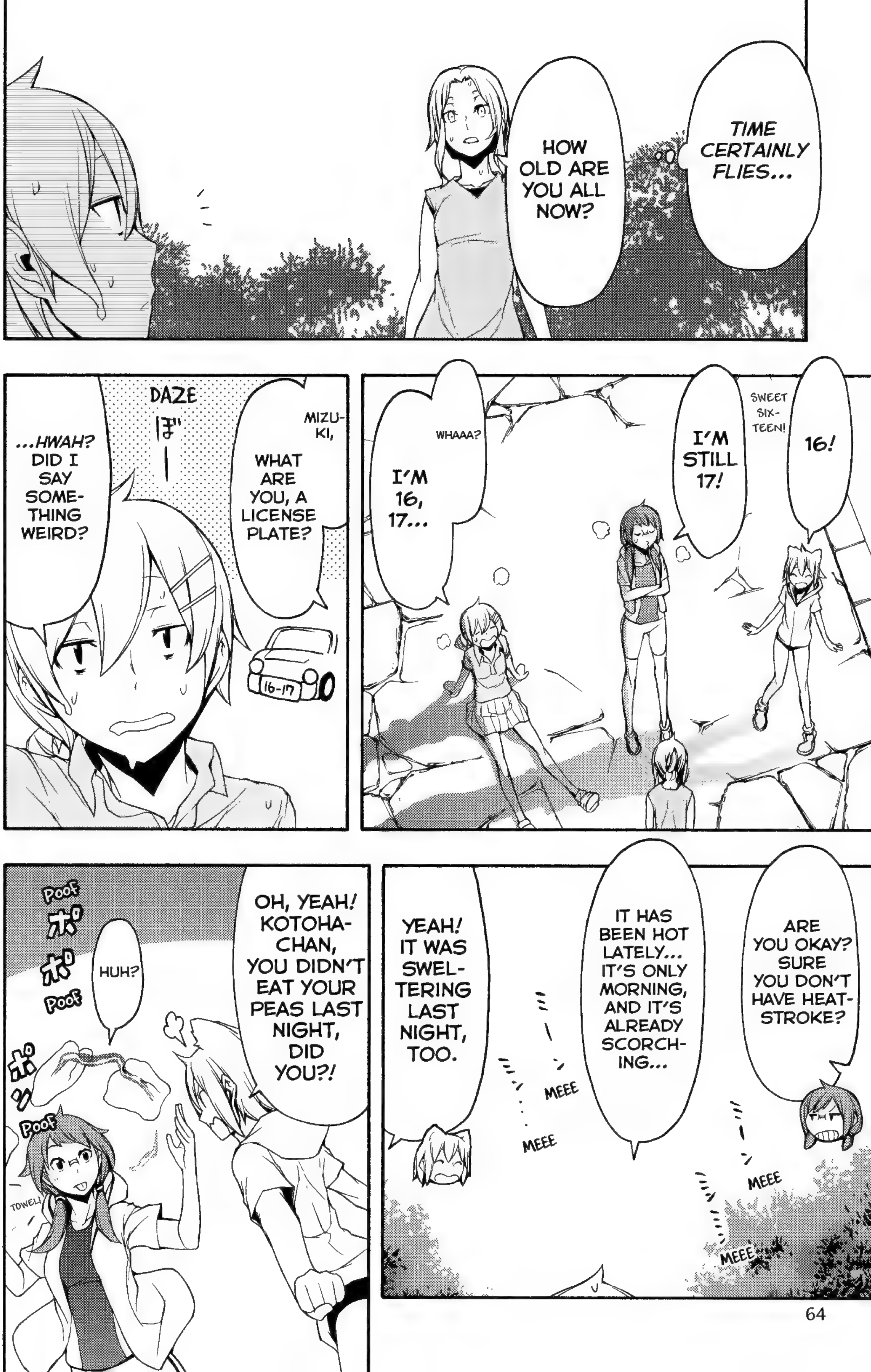

MAY TODAY BE PEACEFUL, AS WELL...

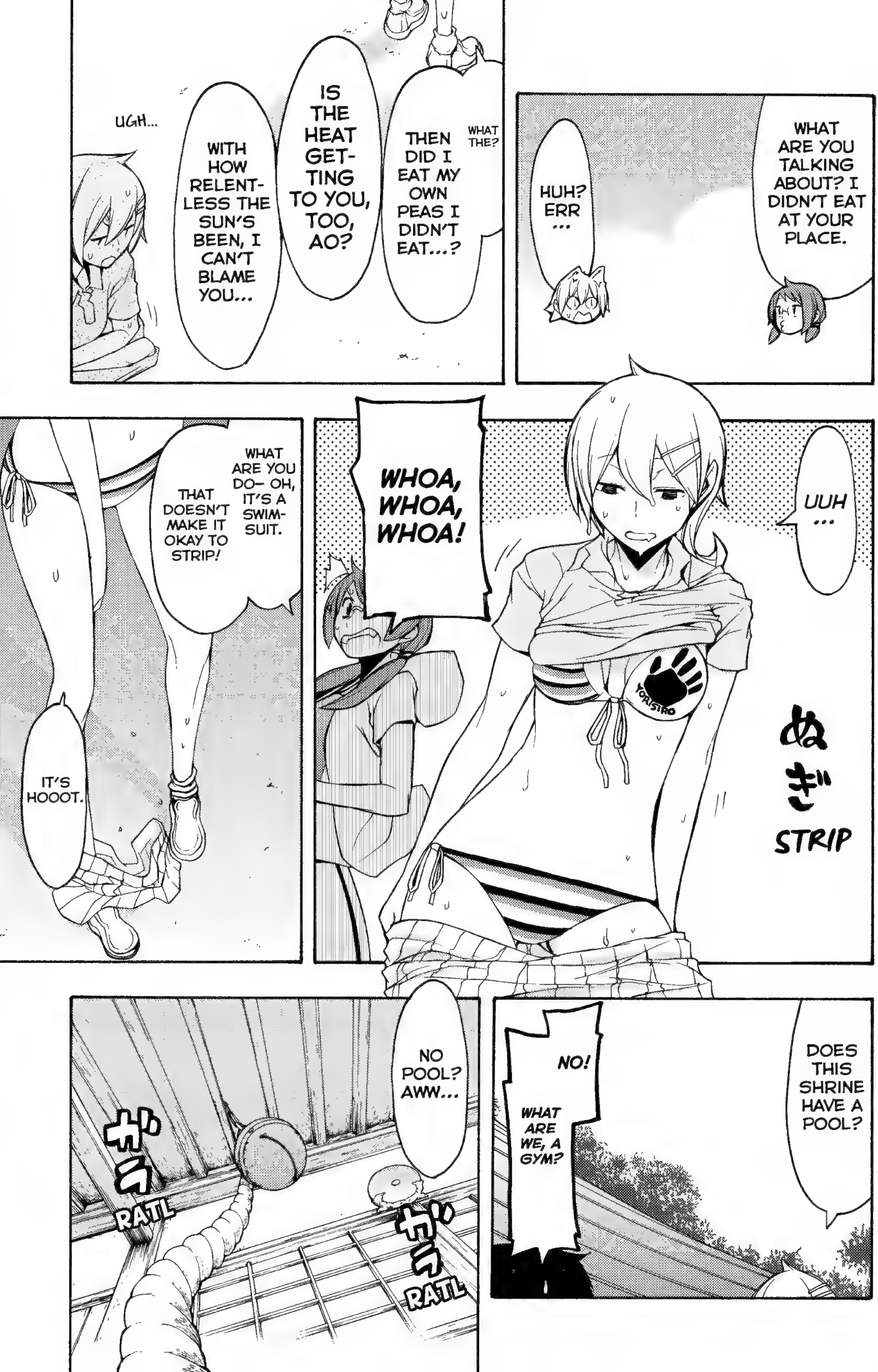

THEN ONE BOW TO FINISH... OOP.
TAP どど TAP
TAP どど TAP
GOOOAL! FIRST PLACE!
どんっ THMP
I LOST!
MORNING, YOU TWO.
MORNING!
ズザザザ SKFFFF
MORNING!
W-WE MADE IT... YOU GUYS ARE TOO FAST!
ぜぇ HUFF
ぜぇ HUFF
ぜぇ HUFF
どんっ THMP
THAT WAS ROUGH...
HEY, KOTOHA. HM? NOT EVERY DAY YOU COME AROUND, MIZUKI.
ぜぃ WHEEZE
ぜぃ WHEEZE
KOTOHA SAID RUNNING WAS GOOD FOR LOSING WEIGHT...

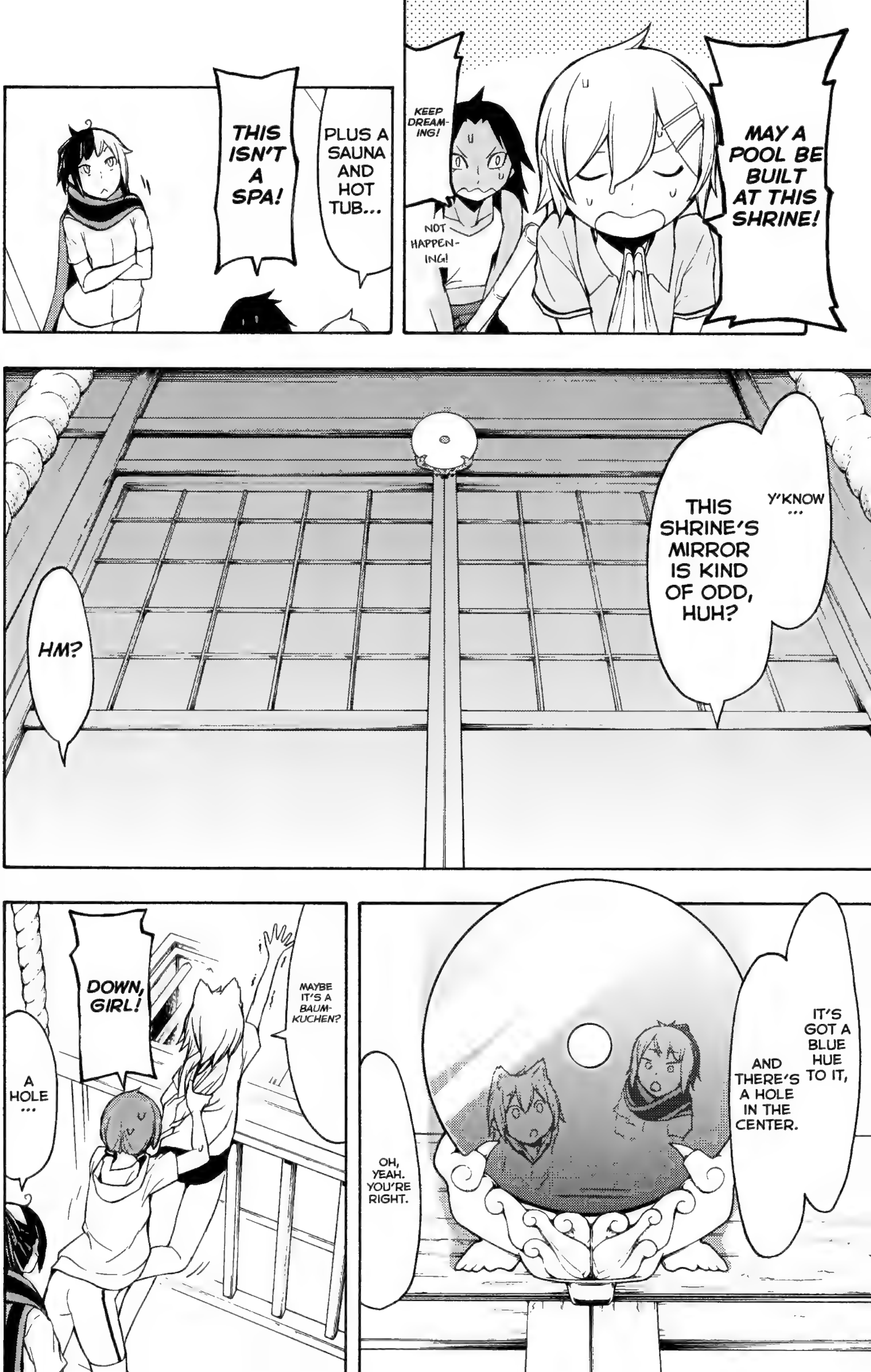

...BUT I'M GOING TO WASTE AWAY TO NOTHING AT THIS PACE!
AS IF A REGULAR OLD HUMAN LIKE YOU COULD KEEP UP WITH THOSE THREE.
OOF...
WHAT'S WITH THAT GETUP, SAWAKI?
HM? IT'S HOT AS HELL TODAY.
陸上部 TRACK CLUB
I THOUGHT I COULD GET BY WITH JUST WEARING THE HAKAMA*...
WHAT PRIESTESS WEARS A SPORTS BRA?
HUH? SAY, GUYS... WASN'T IT WHOEVER PRAYS AT THE SHRINE FIRST, WINS?
AH!
BYOOM
THAT'S RIGHT! GOAL!
WHIF WHIF
CLAP CLAP
WHIF
I WAS FASTER!
AND ONCE MORE, PROPERLY...
MUM MUM
ムニャ ムニャ
YOU GIRLS ARE ASKING FOR DIVINE PUNISHMENT.
I SWEAR...

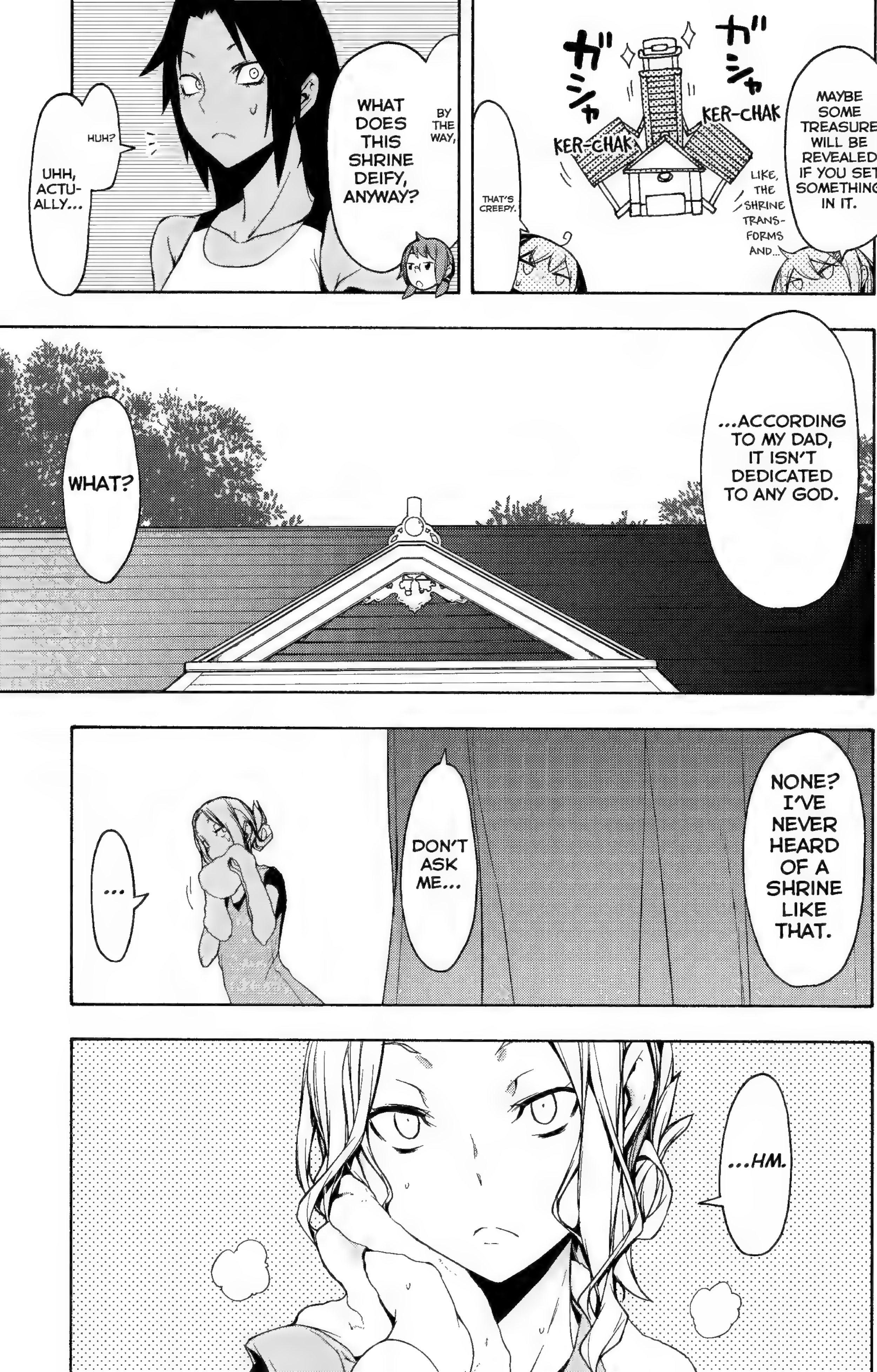
*Traditional Japanese pants.

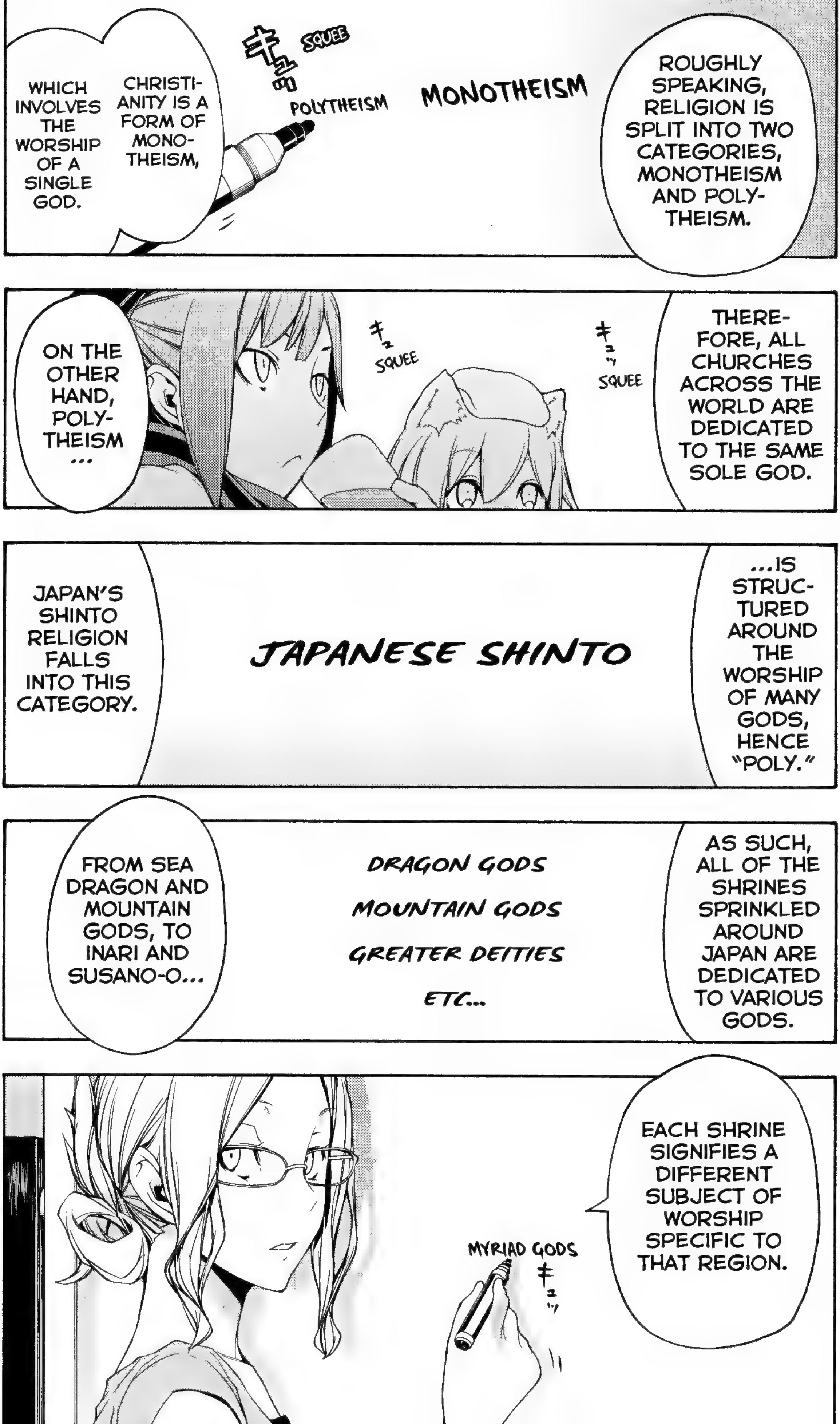

OH, MARICCHI!
GOOD MORNING.
BEEP
YOU DON'T USUALLY RUN THIS FAR, HUH?
I'VE BEEN OVER-EATING LATELY.
YOU GAIN WEIGHT EASIER THE OLDER YOU GET...
CLAP
CLAP
WHERE DO I EVEN BEGIN?
SHE'S A 300-YEAR OLD FRANKENSTEIN.
OH, RIGHT. WILL YOU BE HOME THIS EVENING, MAYOR?
I HAVE SOME DISTRICT BUSINESS THAT NEEDS ATTENDING.
I'M EATING AT MINAKANA'S PLACE TONIGHT.
SHIDOU-SAN AND ROKKAKU HAVE THE NIGHT SHIFT.
AO WENT LAST WEEK, SO IT'S MY TURN THIS WEEK.
WANT ME TO WATCH 'EM FOR YOU?
JUST AS THE ADULTS IN TOWN FILLED THE GAP LEFT BY THE LOST GENERATION,
NOW THEIR CHILDREN ARE ASSISTING THE NEXT GENERATION.

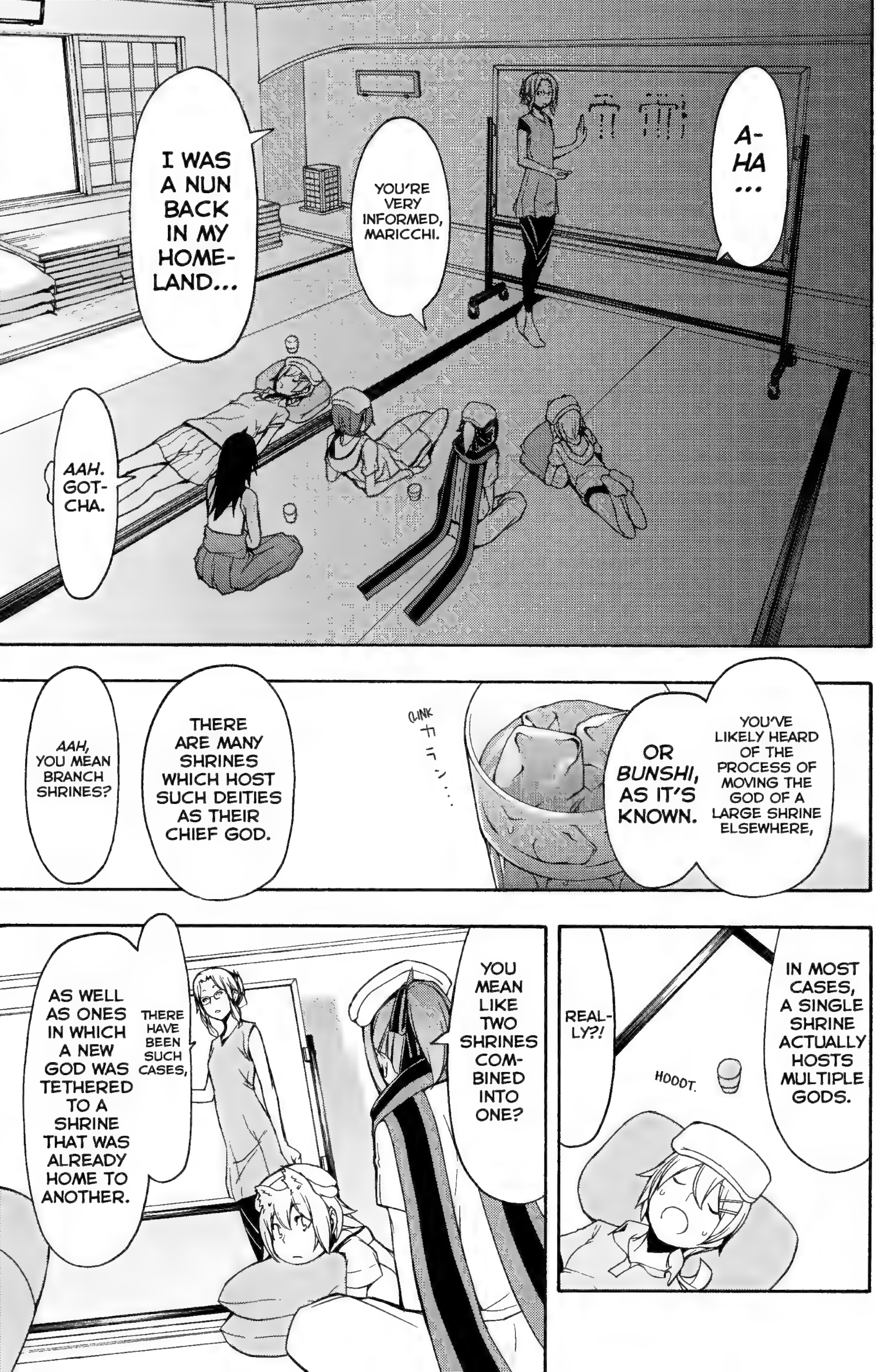

TIME CERTAINLY FLIES...
HOW OLD ARE YOU ALL NOW?
16!
SWEET SIXTEEN!
I'M STILL 17!
WHAAA?
I'M 16, 17...
MIZUKI,
WHAT ARE YOU, A LICENSE PLATE?
16-17
DAZE ぼー
...HWAH? DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?
ARE YOU OKAY? SURE YOU DON'T HAVE HEATSTROKE?
IT HAS BEEN HOT LATELY... IT'S ONLY MORNING, AND IT'S ALREADY SCORCHING...
YEAH! IT WAS SWELTERING LAST NIGHT, TOO.
MEEE
MEEE
MEEE
MEEE
OH, YEAH! KOTOHA-CHAN, YOU DIDN'T EAT YOUR PEAS LAST NIGHT, DID YOU?!
HUH?
Poof ポ
ポ Poof
ポン Poof
TOWEL!

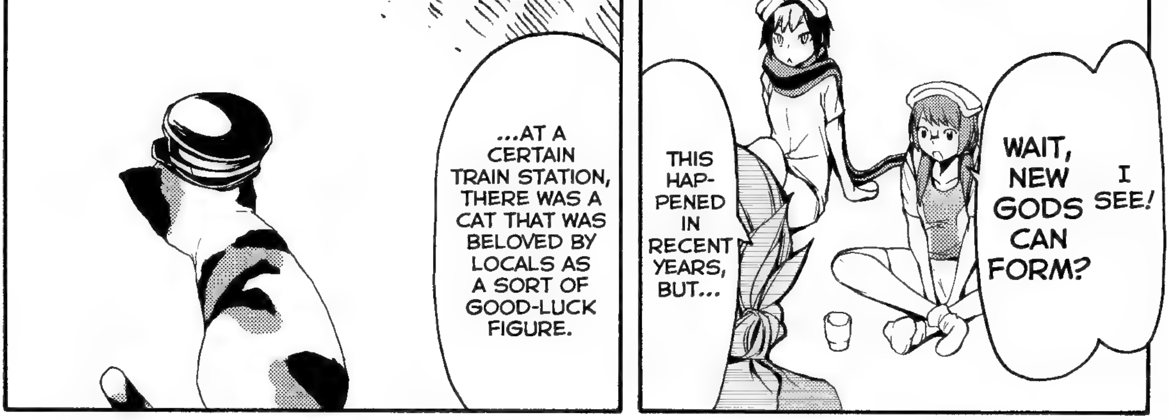

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I DIDN'T EAT AT YOUR PLACE.
HUH? ERR...
THEN DID I EAT MY OWN PEAS I DIDN'T EAT...?
WHAT THE?
IS THE HEAT GETTING TO YOU, TOO, AO?
WITH HOW RELENTLESS THE SUN'S BEEN, I CAN'T BLAME YOU...
UGH...
UUH...
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!
ぬぎ
STRIP
YORISTRO
WHAT ARE YOU DO— OH, IT'S A SWIMSUIT.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT OKAY TO STRIP!
IT'S HOOOT.
DOES THIS SHRINE HAVE A POOL?
NO!
WHAT ARE WE, A GYM?
NO POOL? AWW...
がら
RATL
がら
RATL

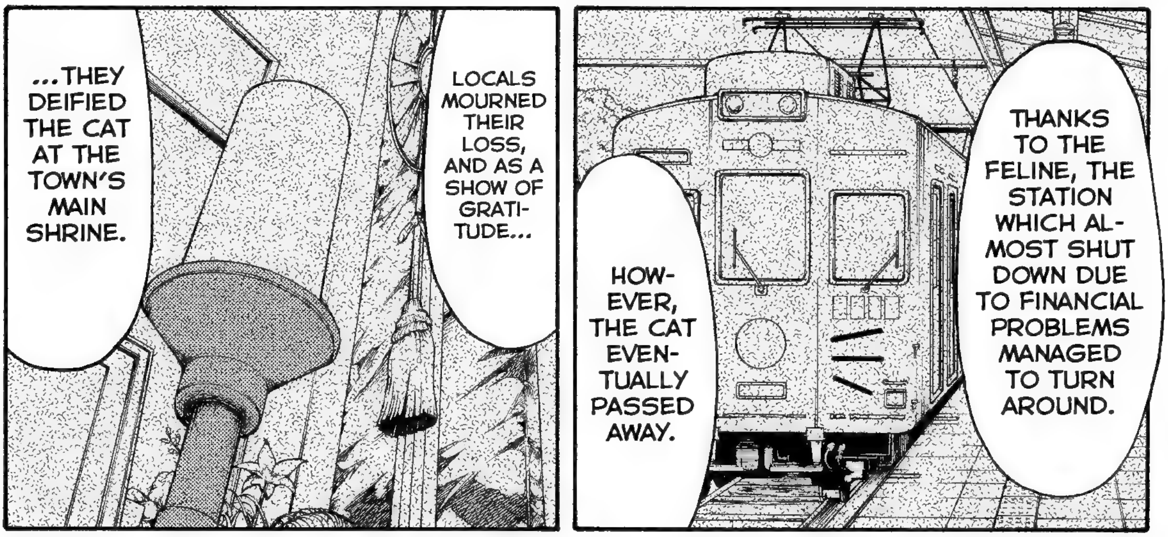

MAY A POOL BE BUILT AT THIS SHRINE!
KEEP DREAMING!
NOT HAPPENING!
PLUS A SAUNA AND HOT TUB...
THIS ISN'T A SPA!
Y'KNOW...
THIS SHRINE'S MIRROR IS KIND OF ODD, HUH?
HM?
IT'S GOT A BLUE HUE TO IT,
AND THERE'S A HOLE IN THE CENTER.
OH, YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT.
MAYBE IT'S A BAUMKUCHEN?
DOWN, GIRL!
A HOLE...

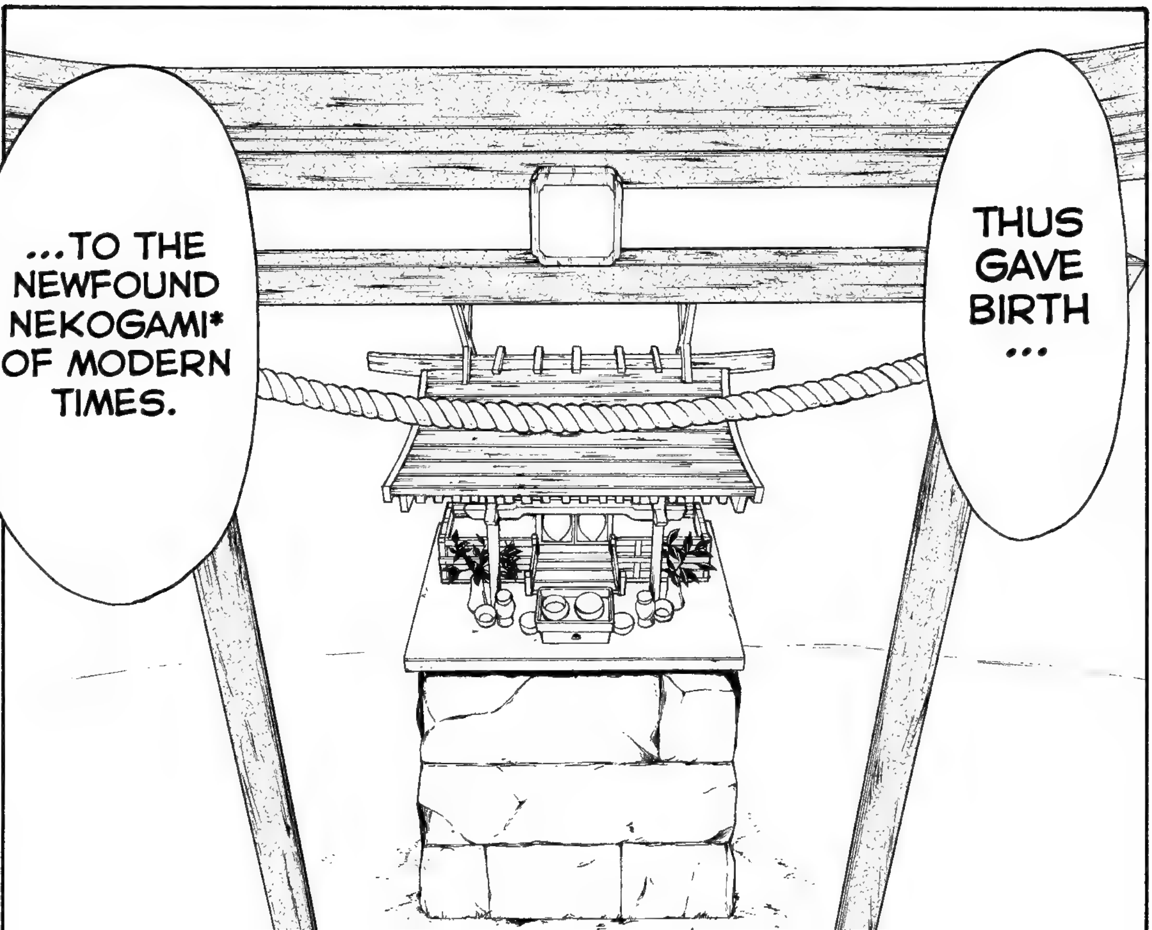

MAYBE SOME TREASURE WILL BE REVEALED IF YOU SET SOMETHING IN IT.
LIKE, THE SHRINE TRANSFORMS AND...
ガシャ
KER-CHAK
ガシャ
KER-CHAK
THAT'S CREEPY.
BY THE WAY,
WHAT DOES THIS SHRINE DEIFY, ANYWAY?
HUH?
UHH, ACTUALLY...
...ACCORDING TO MY DAD, IT ISN'T DEDICATED TO ANY GOD.
WHAT?
NONE? I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A SHRINE LIKE THAT.
DON'T ASK ME...
...
...HM.


ROUGHLY SPEAKING, RELIGION IS SPLIT INTO TWO CATEGORIES, MONOTHEISM AND POLYTHEISM.
MONOTHEISM
POLYTHEISM
キュッ
SQUEE
CHRISTIANITY IS A FORM OF MONOTHEISM,
WHICH INVOLVES THE WORSHIP OF A SINGLE GOD.
THEREFORE, ALL CHURCHES ACROSS THE WORLD ARE DEDICATED TO THE SAME SOLE GOD.
キュッ
SQUEE
キュ
SQUEE
ON THE OTHER HAND, POLYTHEISM...
...IS STRUCTURED AROUND THE WORSHIP OF MANY GODS, HENCE "POLY."
JAPANESE SHINTO
JAPAN'S SHINTO RELIGION FALLS INTO THIS CATEGORY.
AS SUCH, ALL OF THE SHRINES SPRINKLED AROUND JAPAN ARE DEDICATED TO VARIOUS GODS.
DRAGON GODS
MOUNTAIN GODS
GREATER DEITIES
ETC...
FROM SEA DRAGON AND MOUNTAIN GODS, TO INARI AND SUSANO-O...
EACH SHRINE SIGNIFIES A DIFFERENT SUBJECT OF WORSHIP SPECIFIC TO THAT REGION.
MYRIAD GODS
キュッ

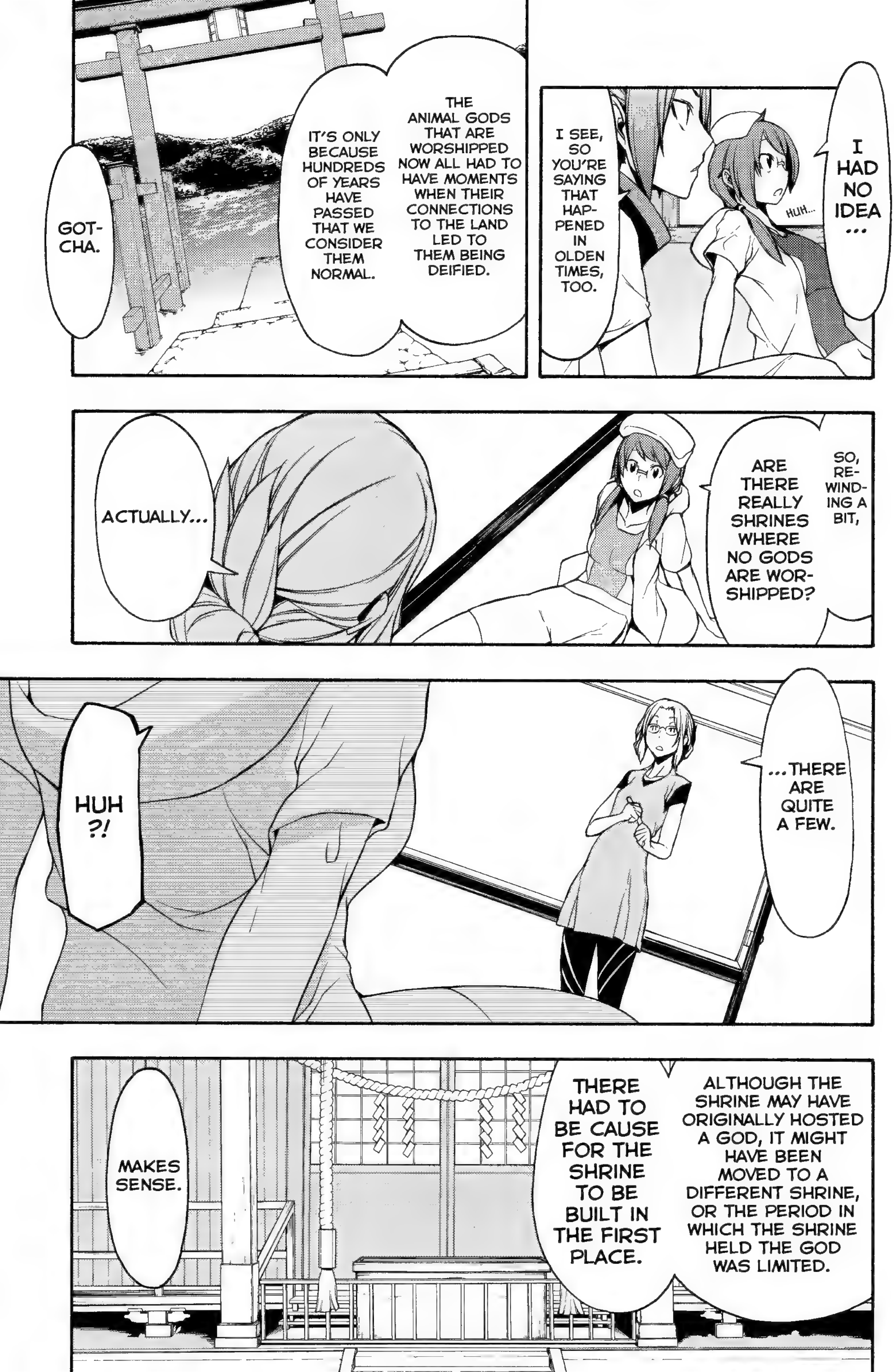

A-HA...
YOU'RE VERY INFORMED, MARICCHI.
I WAS A NUN BACK IN MY HOMELAND...
AAH. GOTCHA.
YOU'VE LIKELY HEARD OF THE PROCESS OF MOVING THE GOD OF A LARGE SHRINE ELSEWHERE,
OR *BUNSHI*, AS IT'S KNOWN.
CLINK カラン...
THERE ARE MANY SHRINES WHICH HOST SUCH DEITIES AS THEIR CHIEF GOD.
AAH, YOU MEAN BRANCH SHRINES?
IN MOST CASES, A SINGLE SHRINE ACTUALLY HOSTS MULTIPLE GODS.
HOOOT.
REALLY?!
YOU MEAN LIKE TWO SHRINES COMBINED INTO ONE?
THERE HAVE BEEN SUCH CASES,
AS WELL AS ONES IN WHICH A NEW GOD WAS TETHERED TO A SHRINE THAT WAS ALREADY HOME TO ANOTHER.

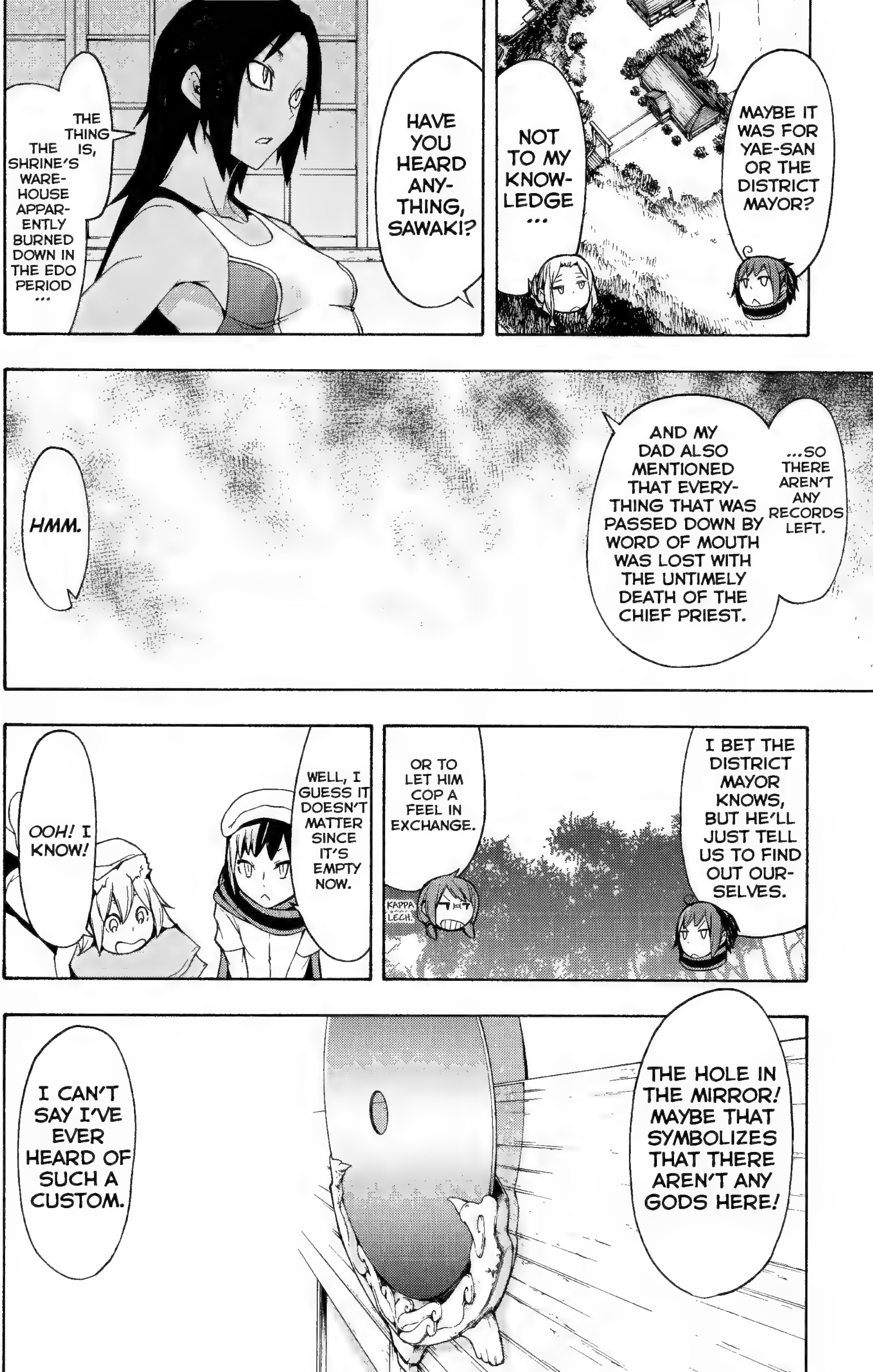

WAIT, NEW GODS CAN FORM?
I SEE!
THIS HAPPENED IN RECENT YEARS, BUT...
...AT A CERTAIN TRAIN STATION, THERE WAS A CAT THAT WAS BELOVED BY LOCALS AS A SORT OF GOOD-LUCK FIGURE.

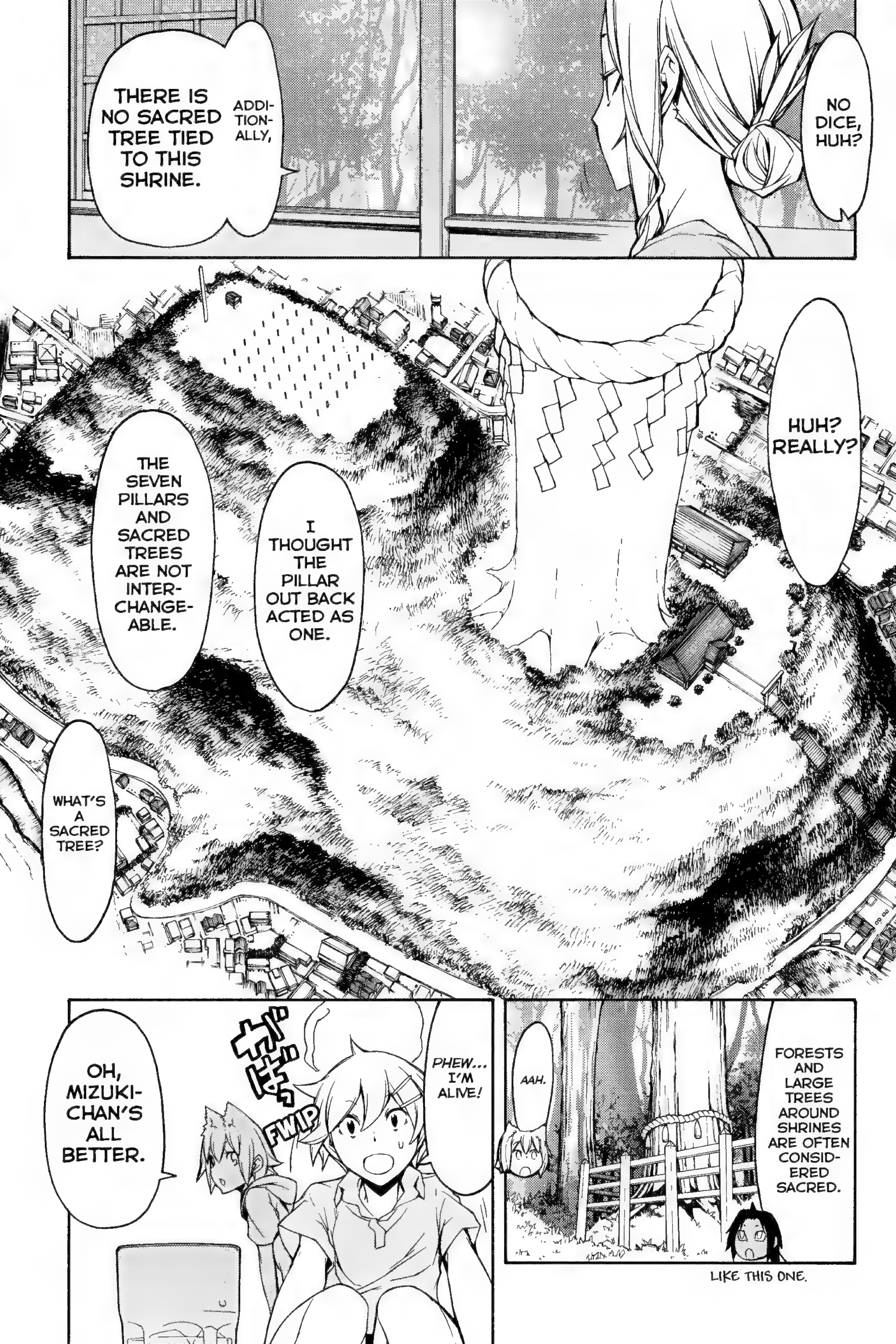

THANKS TO THE FELINE, THE STATION WHICH ALMOST SHUT DOWN DUE TO FINANCIAL PROBLEMS MANAGED TO TURN AROUND.
HOWEVER, THE CAT EVENTUALLY PASSED AWAY.
LOCALS MOURNED THEIR LOSS, AND AS A SHOW OF GRATITUDE...
...THEY DEIFIED THE CAT AT THE TOWN'S MAIN SHRINE.

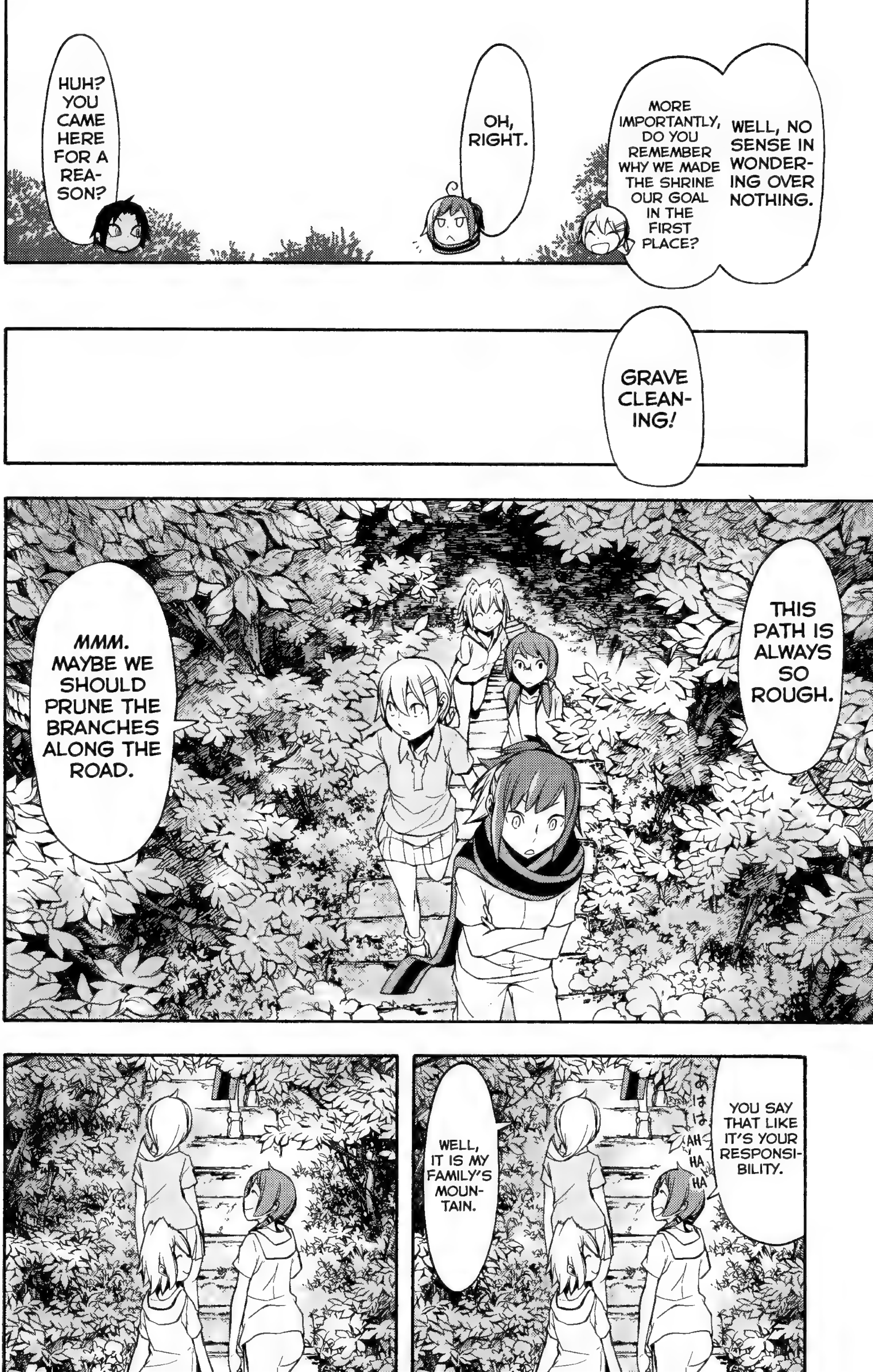

THUS GAVE BIRTH...
...TO THE NEWFOUND NEKOGAMI* OF MODERN TIMES.

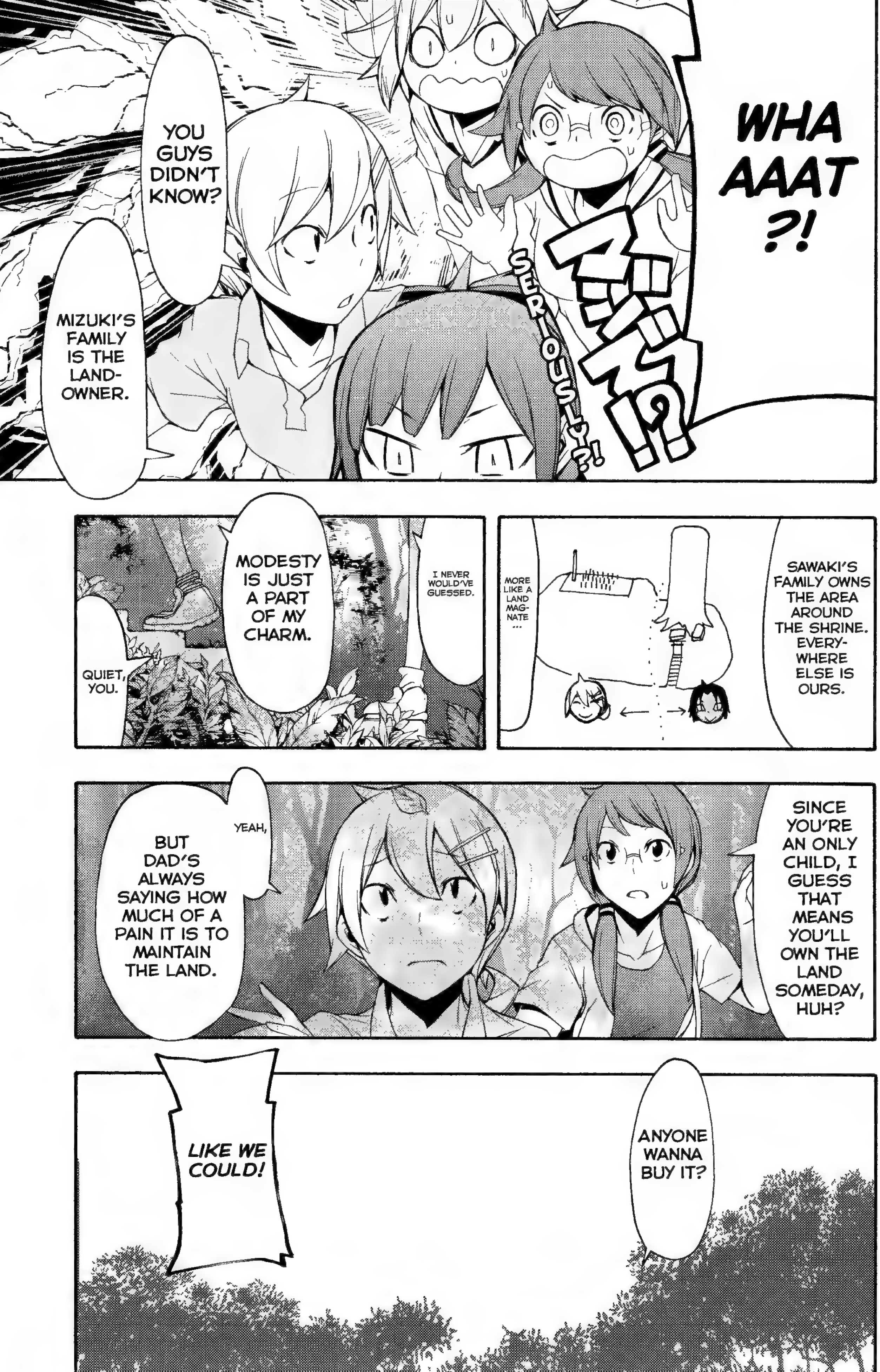
*Cat God

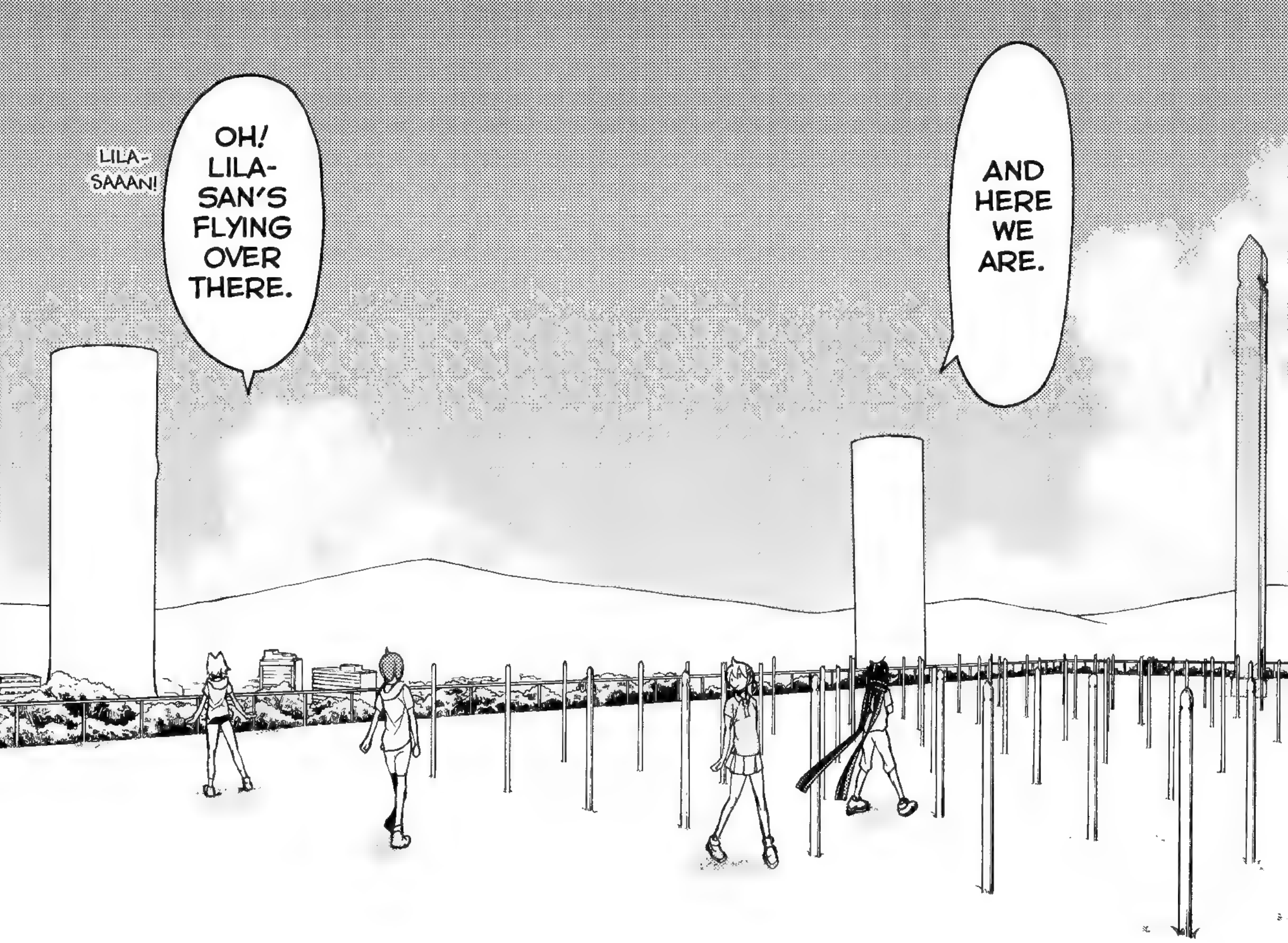

I HAD NO IDEA...
HUH...
I SEE, SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT HAPPENED IN OLDEN TIMES, TOO.
THE ANIMAL GODS THAT ARE WORSHIPPED NOW ALL HAD TO HAVE MOMENTS WHEN THEIR CONNECTIONS TO THE LAND LED TO THEM BEING DEIFIED.
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE HUNDREDS OF YEARS HAVE PASSED THAT WE CONSIDER THEM NORMAL.
GOTCHA.
SO, REWINDING A BIT,
ARE THERE REALLY SHRINES WHERE NO GODS ARE WORSHIPPED?
ACTUALLY...
...THERE ARE QUITE A FEW.
HUH?!
ALTHOUGH THE SHRINE MAY HAVE ORIGINALLY HOSTED A GOD, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN MOVED TO A DIFFERENT SHRINE, OR THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE SHRINE HELD THE GOD WAS LIMITED.
THERE HAD TO BE CAUSE FOR THE SHRINE TO BE BUILT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
MAKES SENSE.

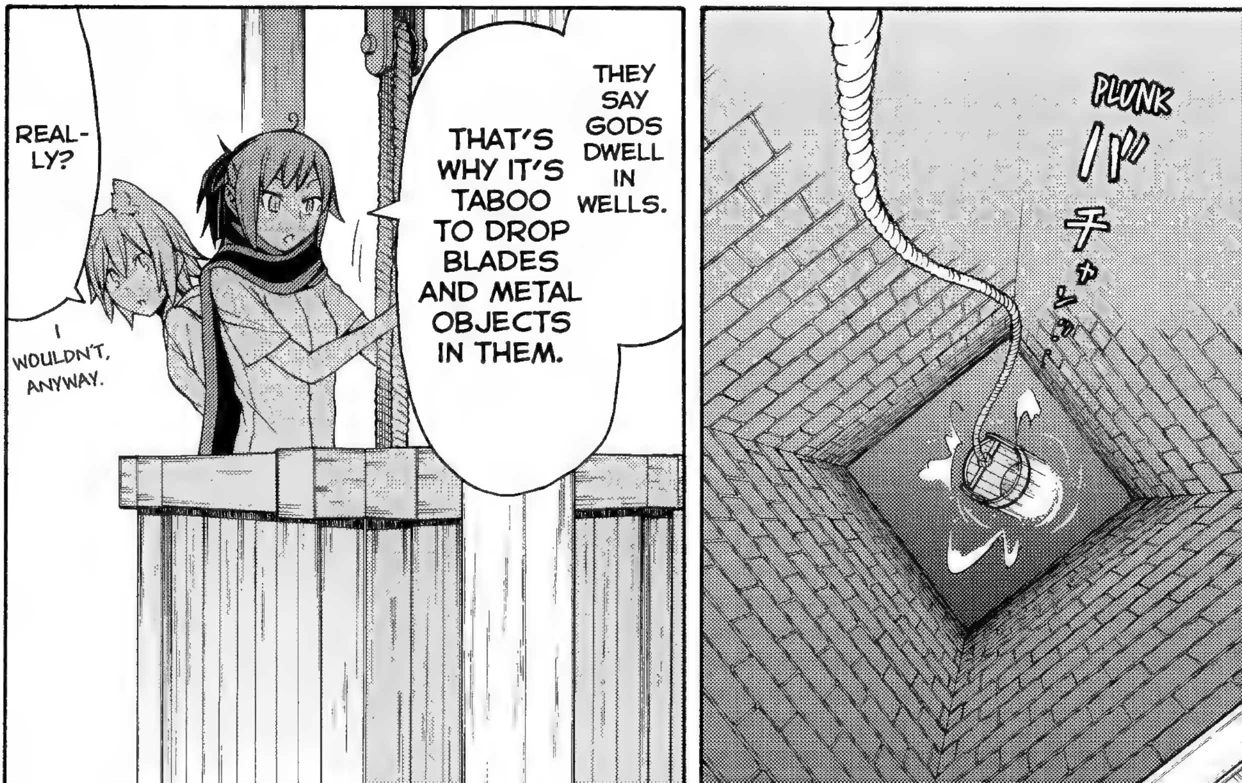

MAYBE IT WAS FOR YAE-SAN OR THE DISTRICT MAYOR?
NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE...
HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING, SAWAKI?
THE THING IS, THE SHRINE'S WAREHOUSE APPARENTLY BURNED DOWN IN THE EDO PERIOD...
...SO THERE AREN'T ANY RECORDS LEFT.
AND MY DAD ALSO MENTIONED THAT EVERYTHING THAT WAS PASSED DOWN BY WORD OF MOUTH WAS LOST WITH THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF THE CHIEF PRIEST.
HMM.
I BET THE DISTRICT MAYOR KNOWS, BUT HE'LL JUST TELL US TO FIND OUT OURSELVES.
OR TO LET HIM COP A FEEL IN EXCHANGE.
KAPPA LECH.
WELL, I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER SINCE IT'S EMPTY NOW.
OOH! I KNOW!
THE HOLE IN THE MIRROR! MAYBE THAT SYMBOLIZES THAT THERE AREN'T ANY GODS HERE!
I CAN'T SAY I'VE EVER HEARD OF SUCH A CUSTOM.

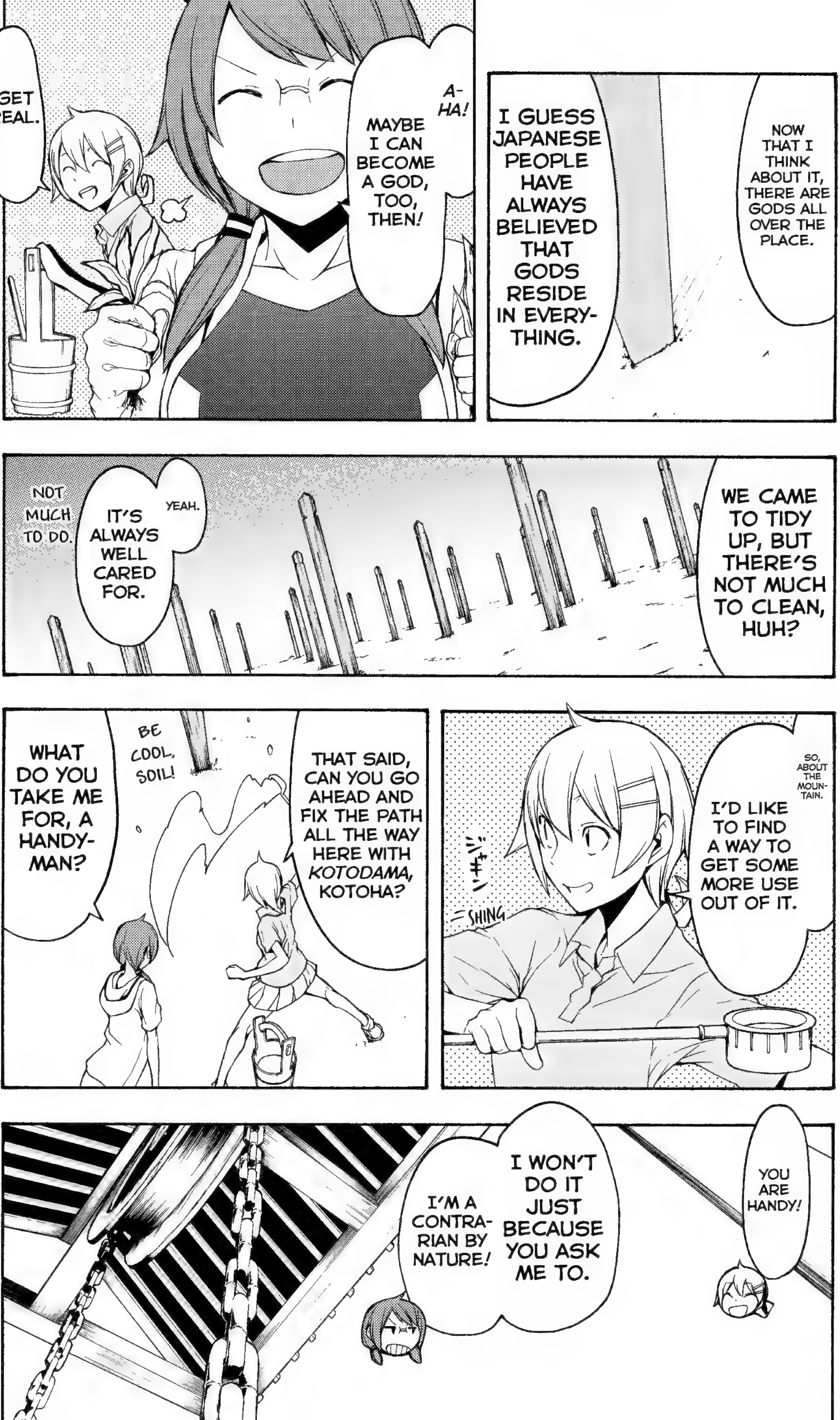

NO DICE, HUH?
ADDITIONALLY,
THERE IS NO SACRED TREE TIED TO THIS SHRINE.
HUH? REALLY?
I THOUGHT THE PILLAR OUT BACK ACTED AS ONE.
THE SEVEN PILLARS AND SACRED TREES ARE NOT INTERCHANGEABLE.
WHAT'S A SACRED TREE?
FORESTS AND LARGE TREES AROUND SHRINES ARE OFTEN CONSIDERED SACRED.
AAH.
LIKE THIS ONE.
PHEW... I'M ALIVE!
がばっ
FWIP
OH, MIZUKI-CHAN'S ALL BETTER.

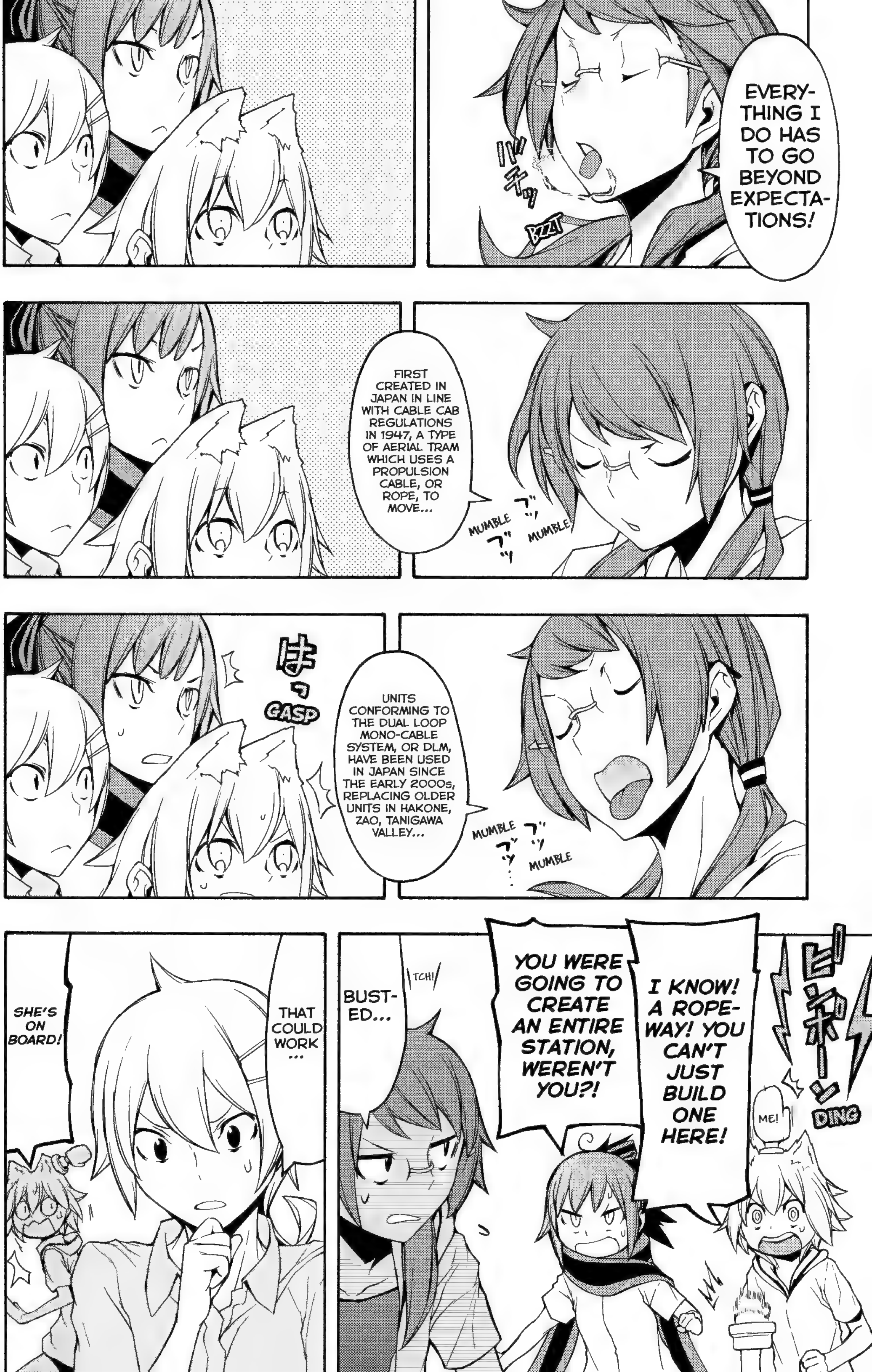

WELL, NO SENSE IN WONDERING OVER NOTHING.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DO YOU REMEMBER WHY WE MADE THE SHRINE OUR GOAL IN THE FIRST PLACE?
OH, RIGHT.
HUH? YOU CAME HERE FOR A REASON?
GRAVE CLEANING!
THIS PATH IS ALWAYS SO ROUGH.
MMM. MAYBE WE SHOULD PRUNE THE BRANCHES ALONG THE ROAD.
YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
あはは AH HA HA
WELL, IT IS MY FAMILY'S MOUNTAIN.

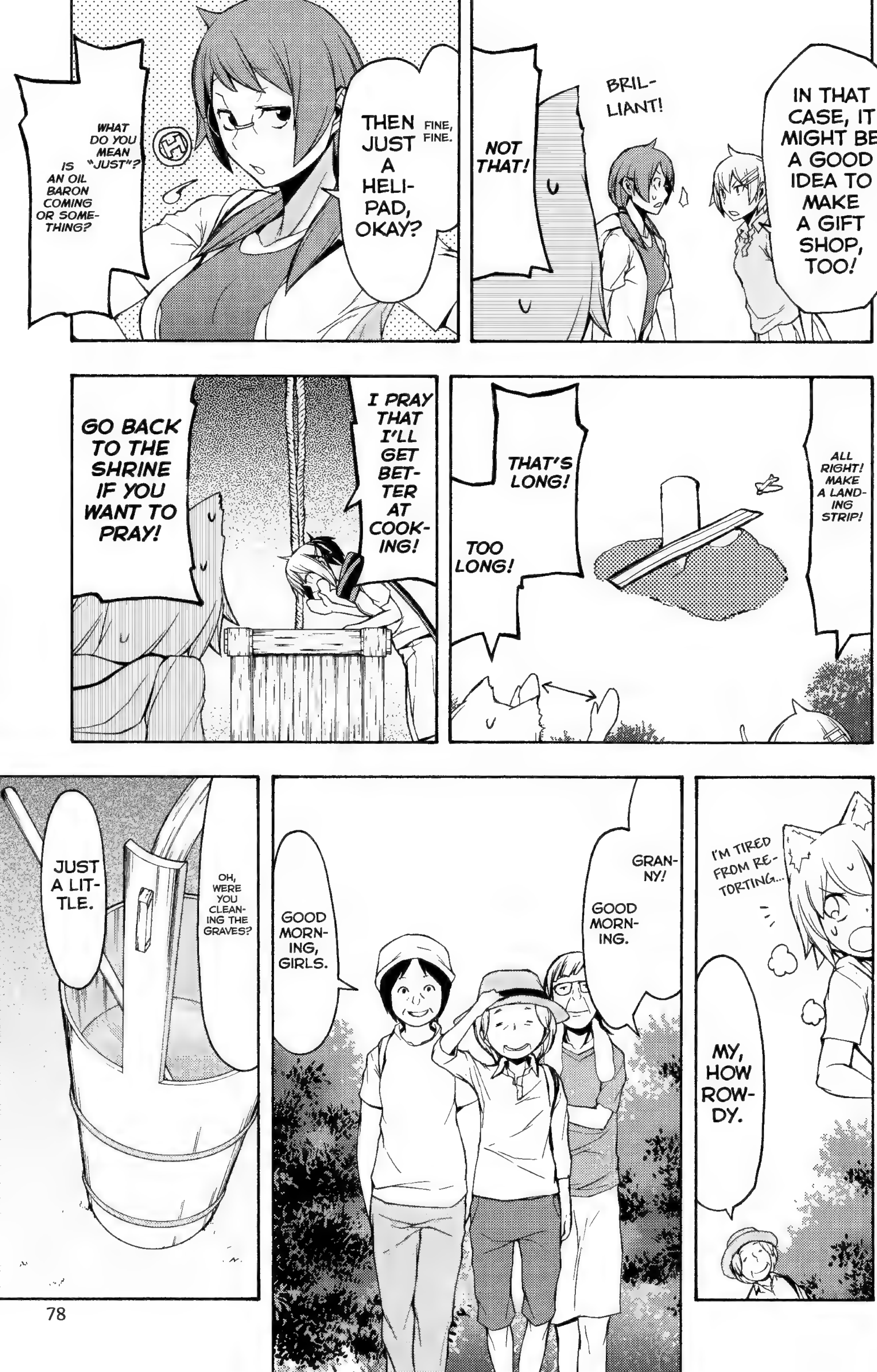

WHAAAAT?!
マジで!?
SERIOUSLY?!
YOU GUYS DIDN'T KNOW?
MIZUKI'S FAMILY IS THE LANDOWNER.
SAWAKI'S FAMILY OWNS THE AREA AROUND THE SHRINE. EVERYWHERE ELSE IS OURS.
MORE LIKE A LAND MAGNATE ...
I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED.
MODESTY IS JUST A PART OF MY CHARM.
QUIET, YOU.
SINCE YOU'RE AN ONLY CHILD, I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU'LL OWN THE LAND SOMEDAY, HUH?
YEAH,
BUT DAD'S ALWAYS SAYING HOW MUCH OF A PAIN IT IS TO MAINTAIN THE LAND.
ANYONE WANNA BUY IT?
LIKE WE COULD!

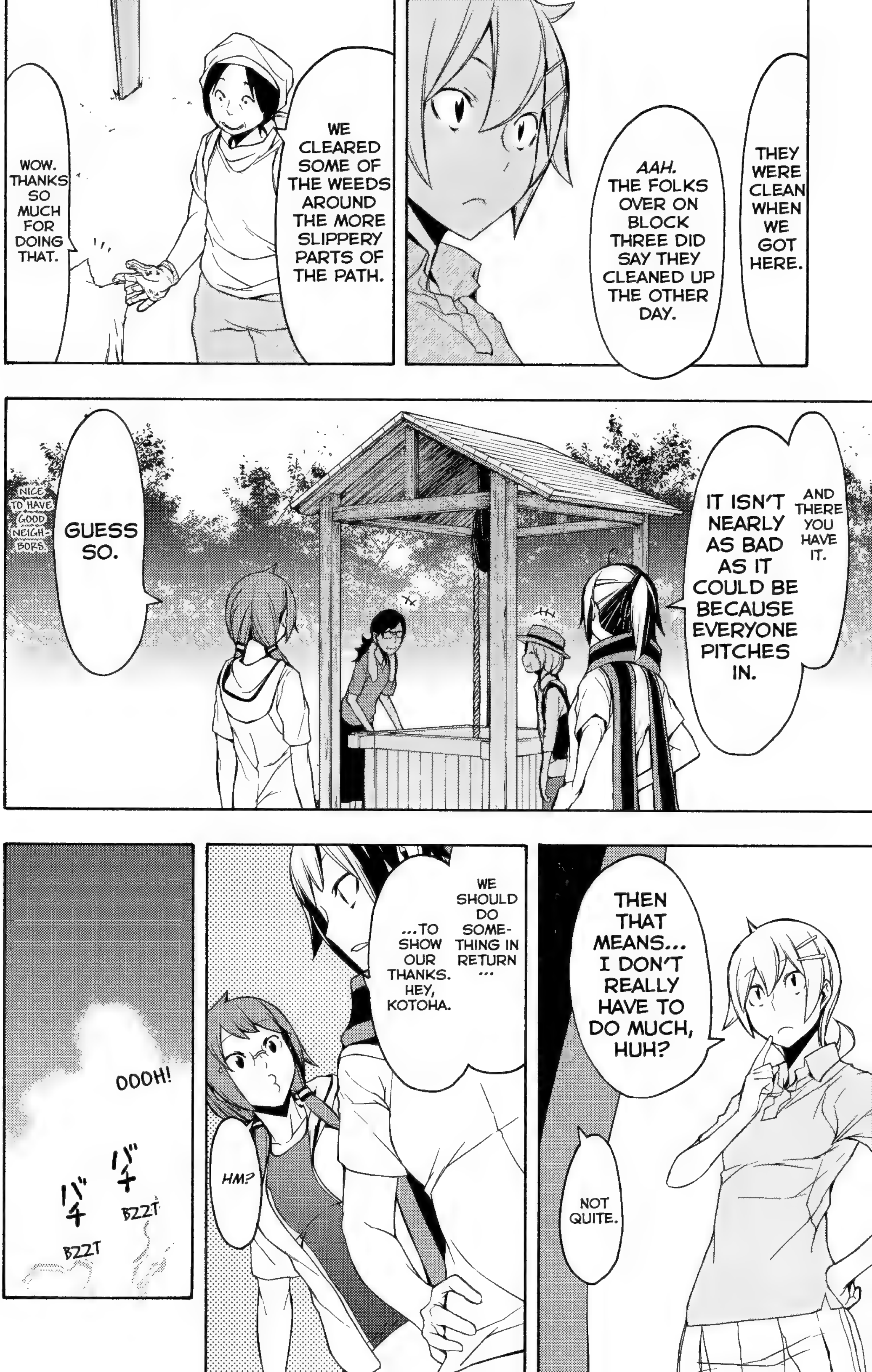

AND HERE WE ARE.
OH! LILA-SAN'S FLYING OVER THERE.
LILA-SAAAN!

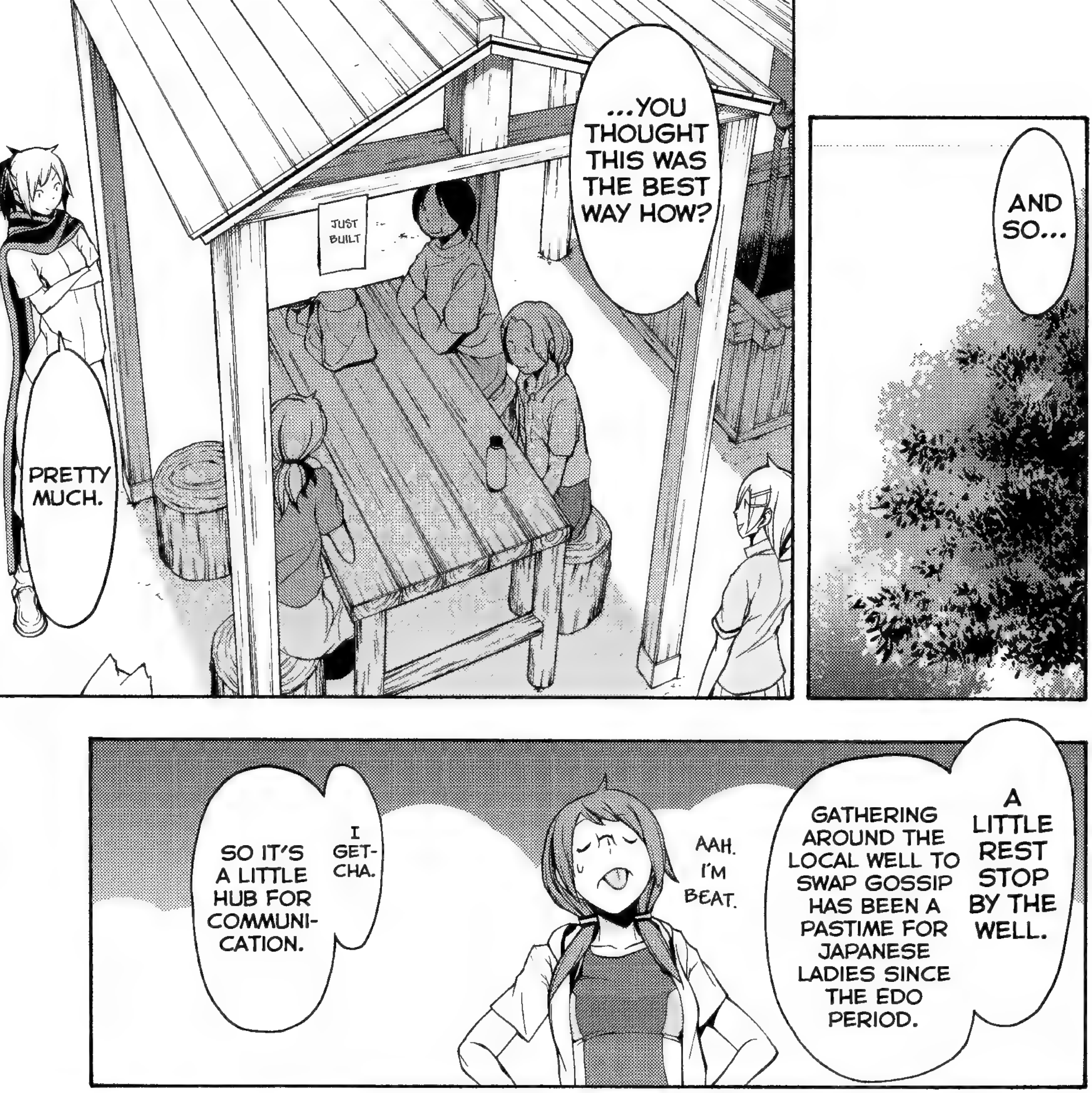

PLUNK
バチャン
THEY SAY GODS DWELL IN WELLS.
THAT'S WHY IT'S TABOO TO DROP BLADES AND METAL OBJECTS IN THEM.
REALLY?
I WOULDN'T, ANYWAY.


NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE ARE GODS ALL OVER THE PLACE.
I GUESS JAPANESE PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT GODS RESIDE IN EVERYTHING.
A-HA!
MAYBE I CAN BECOME A GOD, TOO, THEN!
GET REAL.
WE CAME TO TIDY UP, BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH TO CLEAN, HUH?
YEAH.
IT'S ALWAYS WELL CARED FOR.
NOT MUCH TO DO.
SO, ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN.
I'D LIKE TO FIND A WAY TO GET SOME MORE USE OUT OF IT.
ジャキン
SHING
THAT SAID, CAN YOU GO AHEAD AND FIX THE PATH ALL THE WAY HERE WITH KOTODAMA, KOTOHA?
BE COOL, SOIL!
WHAT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR, A HANDYMAN?
YOU ARE HANDY!
I WON'T DO IT JUST BECAUSE YOU ASK ME TO.
I'M A CONTRARIAN BY NATURE!

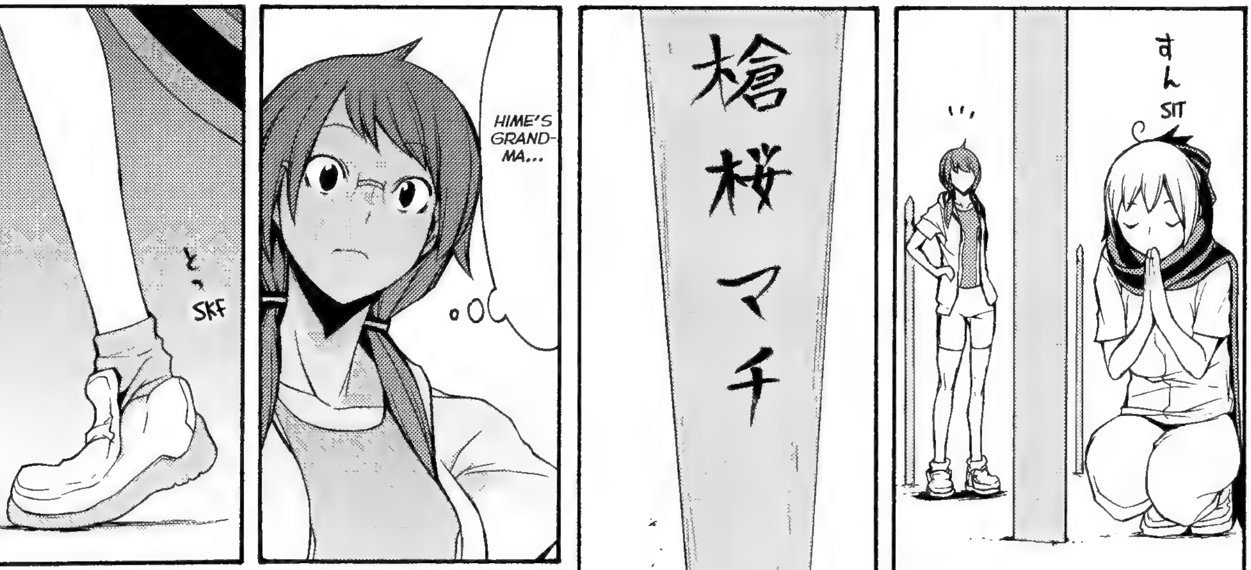

EVERYTHING I DO HAS TO GO BEYOND EXPECTATIONS!
バチッ
BZZT
FIRST CREATED IN JAPAN IN LINE WITH CABLE CAB REGULATIONS IN 1947, A TYPE OF AERIAL TRAM WHICH USES A PROPULSION CABLE, OR ROPE, TO MOVE...
ブツ MUMBLE
ブツ MUMBLE
UNITS CONFORMING TO THE DUAL LOOP MONO-CABLE SYSTEM, OR DLM, HAVE BEEN USED IN JAPAN SINCE THE EARLY 2000s, REPLACING OLDER UNITS IN HAKONE, ZAO, TANIGAWA VALLEY...
ブツ MUMBLE
ブツ... MUMBLE
はっ
GASP
ピンポーン
DING
ME!
I KNOW! A ROPEWAY! YOU CAN'T JUST BUILD ONE HERE!
YOU WERE GOING TO CREATE AN ENTIRE STATION, WEREN'T YOU?!
TCH!
BUSTED...
THAT COULD WORK...
SHE'S ON BOARD!

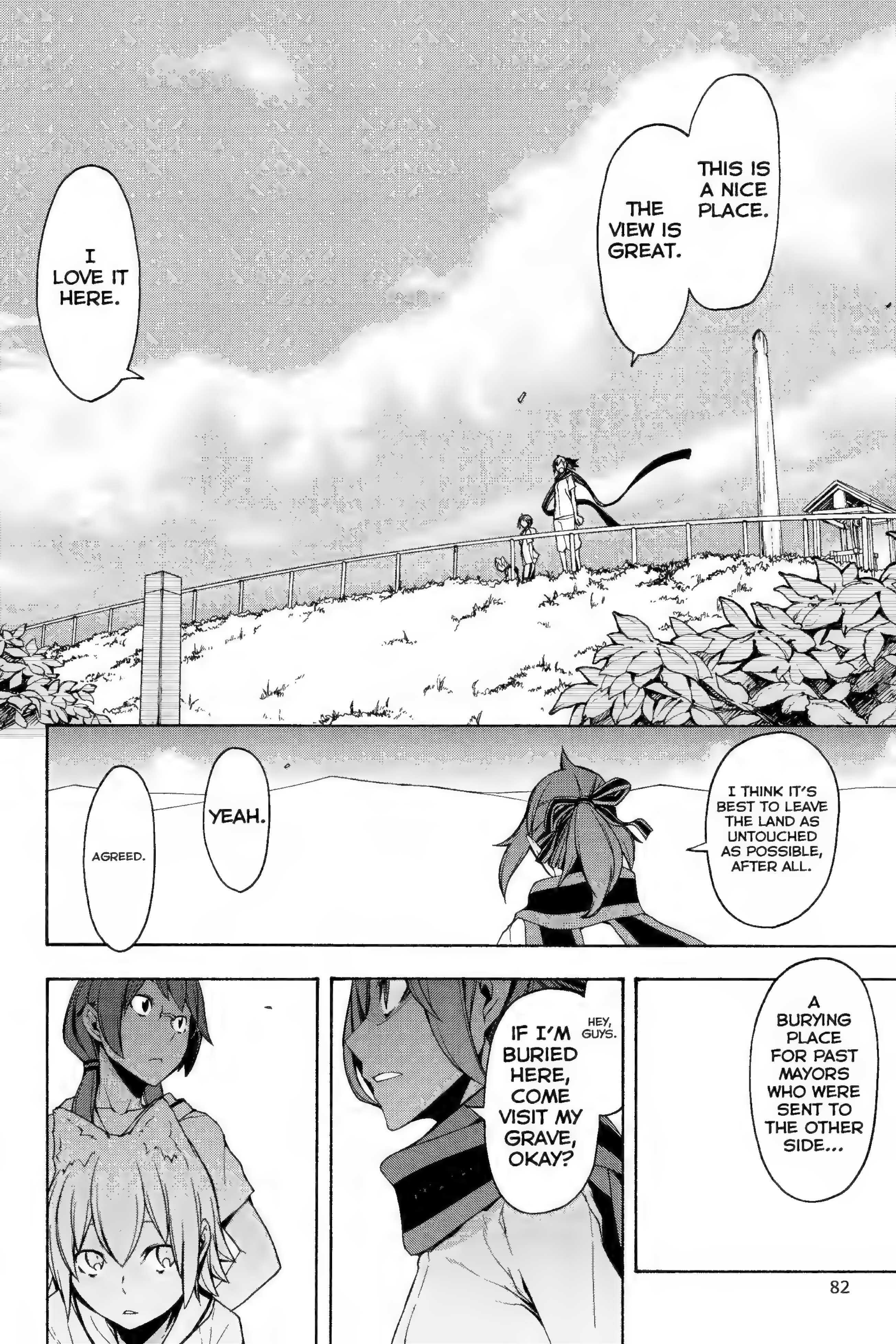

IN THAT CASE, IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE A GIFT SHOP, TOO!
BRILLIANT!
NOT THAT!
THEN JUST A HELIPAD, OKAY?
FINE, FINE.
H
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "JUST"? IS AN OIL BARON COMING OR SOMETHING?
ALL RIGHT! MAKE A LANDING STRIP!
THAT'S LONG!
TOO LONG!
I PRAY THAT I'LL GET BETTER AT COOKING!
GO BACK TO THE SHRINE IF YOU WANT TO PRAY!
I'M TIRED FROM RETORTING...
MY, HOW ROWDY.
GRANNY!
GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, GIRLS.
OH, WERE YOU CLEANING THE GRAVES?
JUST A LITTLE.

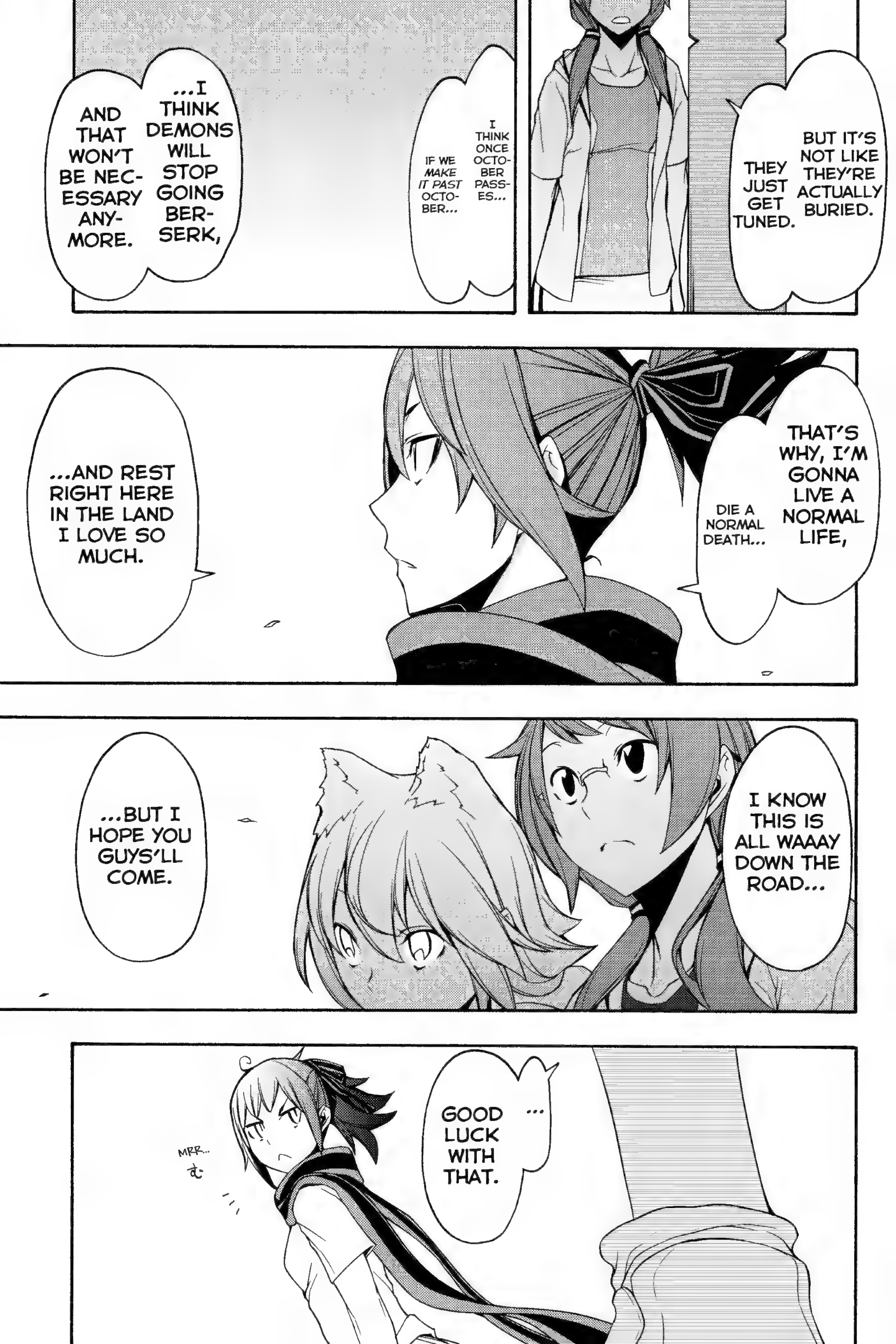

THEY WERE CLEAN WHEN WE GOT HERE.
AAH. THE FOLKS OVER ON BLOCK THREE DID SAY THEY CLEANED UP THE OTHER DAY.
WE CLEARED SOME OF THE WEEDS AROUND THE MORE SLIPPERY PARTS OF THE PATH.
WOW. THANKS SO MUCH FOR DOING THAT.
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT.
IT ISN'T NEARLY AS BAD AS IT COULD BE BECAUSE EVERYONE PITCHES IN.
GUESS SO.
NICE TO HAVE GOOD NEIGHBORS.
THEN THAT MEANS... I DON'T REALLY HAVE TO DO MUCH, HUH?
NOT QUITE.
WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING IN RETURN...
...TO SHOW OUR THANKS. HEY, KOTOHA.
HM?
OOOH!
バチ
BZZT
バチ
BZZT

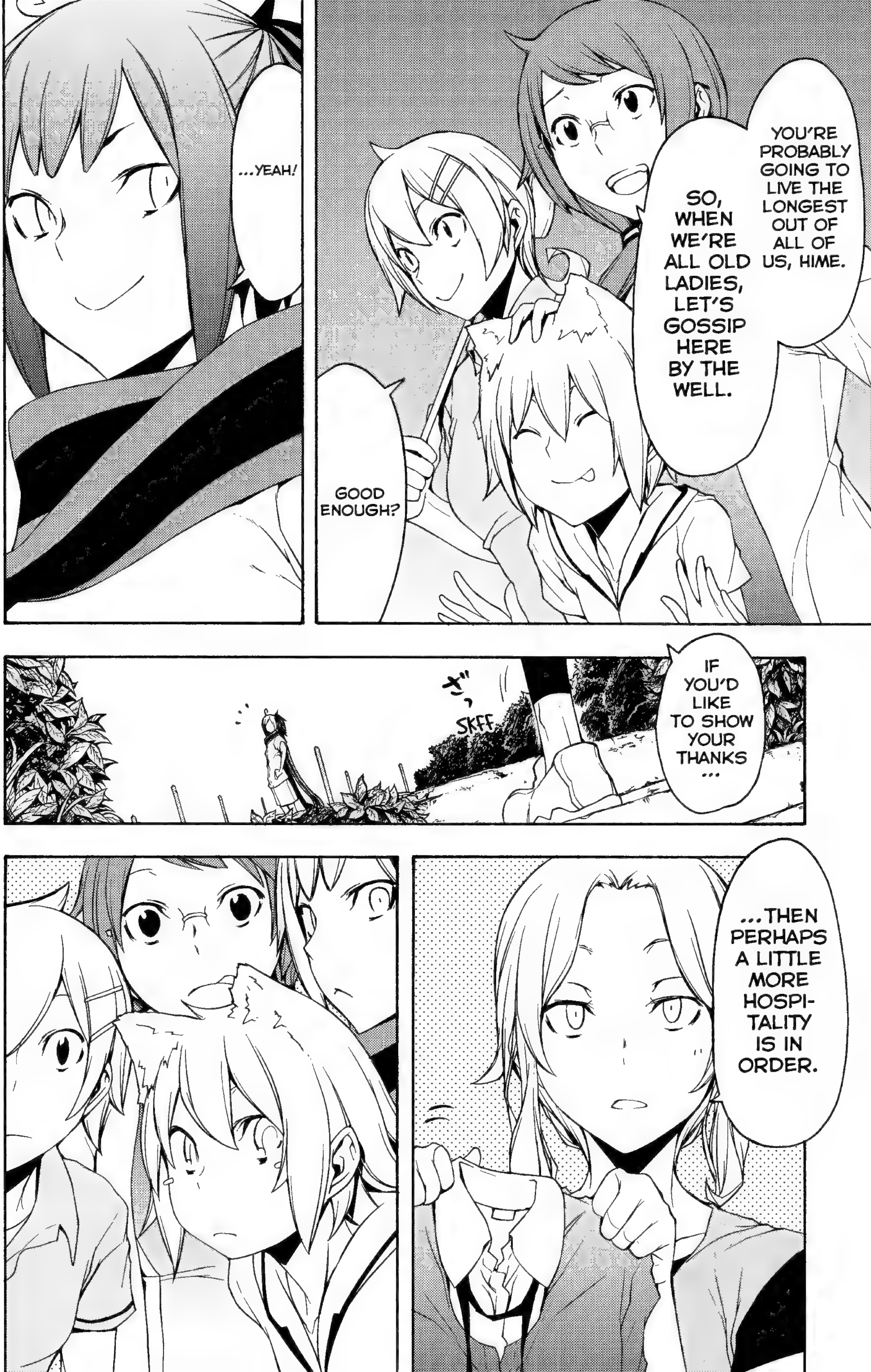

AND SO...
...YOU THOUGHT THIS WAS THE BEST WAY HOW?
JUST BUILT
PRETTY MUCH.
A LITTLE REST STOP BY THE WELL.
GATHERING AROUND THE LOCAL WELL TO SWAP GOSSIP HAS BEEN A PASTIME FOR JAPANESE LADIES SINCE THE EDO PERIOD.
AAH. I'M BEAT.
I GET-CHA.
SO IT'S A LITTLE HUB FOR COMMUNICATION.

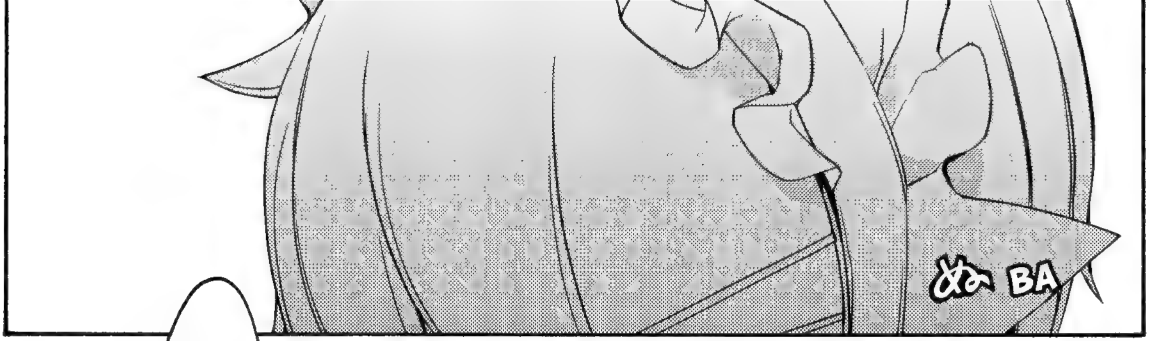
Grave: Machi Yarizakura

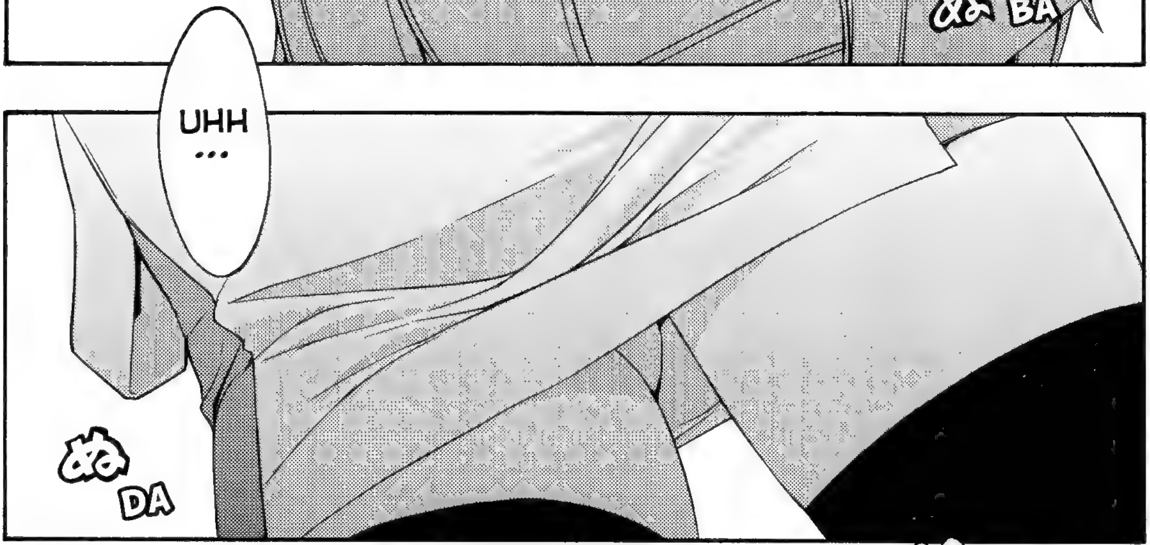

すん SIT
槍桜マチ
HIME'S GRANDMA...
とっ SKF

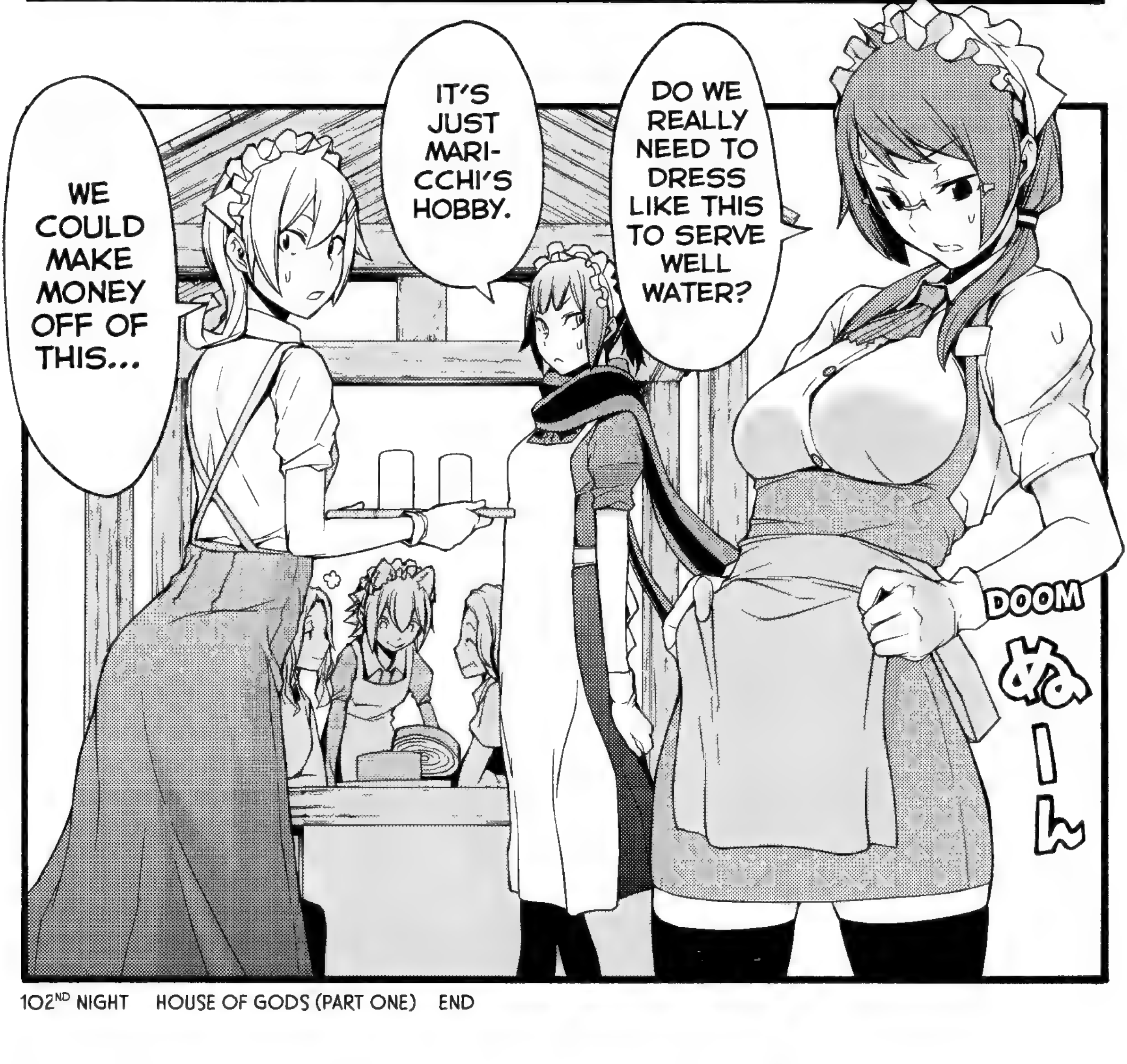

THIS IS A NICE PLACE.
THE VIEW IS GREAT.
I LOVE IT HERE.
I THINK IT'S BEST TO LEAVE THE LAND AS UNTOUCHED AS POSSIBLE, AFTER ALL.
YEAH.
AGREED.
A BURYING PLACE FOR PAST MAYORS WHO WERE SENT TO THE OTHER SIDE...
HEY, GUYS.
IF I'M BURIED HERE, COME VISIT MY GRAVE, OKAY?


BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE ACTUALLY BURIED.
THEY JUST GET TUNED.
I THINK ONCE OCTOBER PASSES...
IF WE *MAKE IT PAST* OCTOBER...
...I THINK DEMONS WILL STOP GOING BERSERK,
AND THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY ANYMORE.
THAT'S WHY, I'M GONNA LIVE A NORMAL LIFE,
DIE A NORMAL DEATH...
...AND REST RIGHT HERE IN THE LAND I LOVE SO MUCH.
I KNOW THIS IS ALL WAAAY DOWN THE ROAD...
...BUT I HOPE YOU GUYS'LL COME.
...
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
MRR...
む

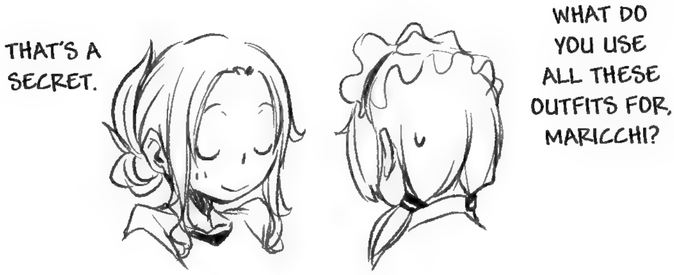

YOU'RE PROBABLY GOING TO LIVE THE LONGEST OUT OF ALL OF US, HIME.
SO, WHEN WE'RE ALL OLD LADIES, LET'S GOSSIP HERE BY THE WELL.
GOOD ENOUGH?
...YEAH!
IF YOU'D LIKE TO SHOW YOUR THANKS...
ざっ
SKFF
...THEN PERHAPS A LITTLE MORE HOSPITALITY IS IN ORDER.

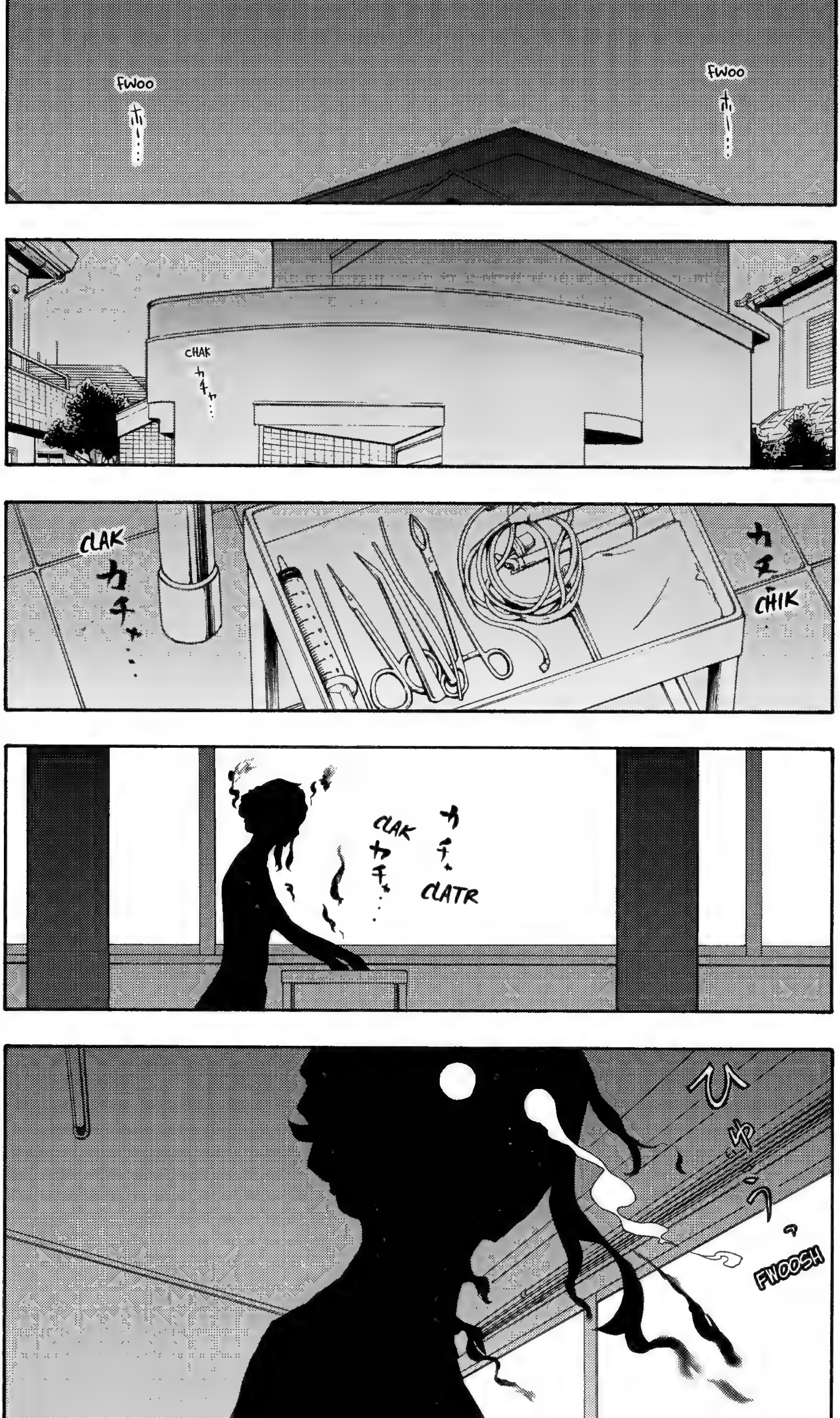


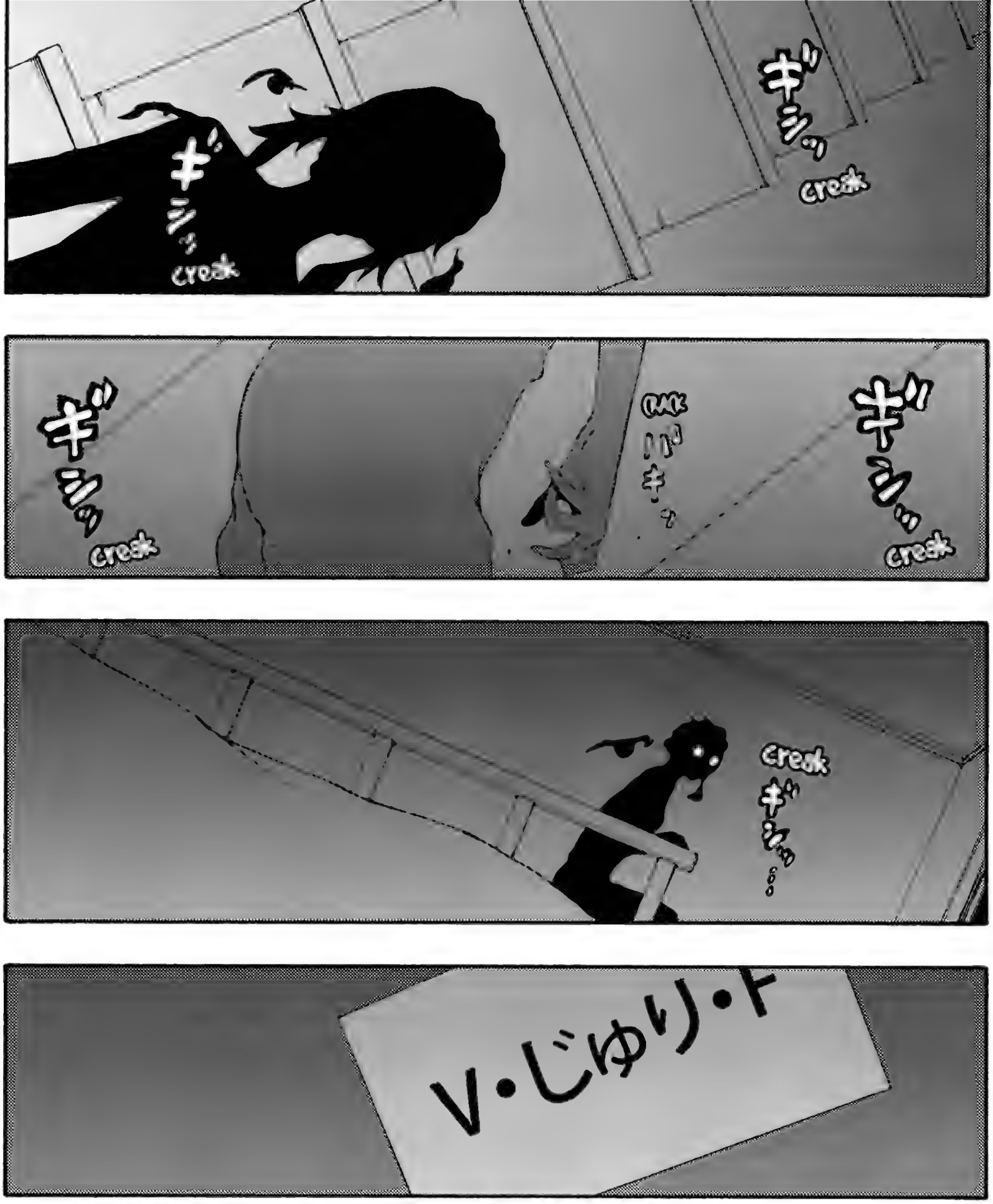



DO WE REALLY NEED TO DRESS LIKE THIS TO SERVE WELL WATER?
IT'S JUST MARI-CCHI'S HOBBY.
WE COULD MAKE MONEY OFF OF THIS…
DOOM
ぬーん

102ND NIGHT HOUSE OF GODS (PART ONE) END


WHAT DO YOU USE ALL THESE OUTFITS FOR, MARICCHI?
THAT'S A SECRET.


FWOO
ふー…
FWOO
ふー…
CHAK
カチャ…
カチ
CHIK
CLAK
カチャ…
カチャ
CLATR
CLAK
カチャ…
ひゅうっ
FWOOSH


ギシッ
creak
ギシッ
creak
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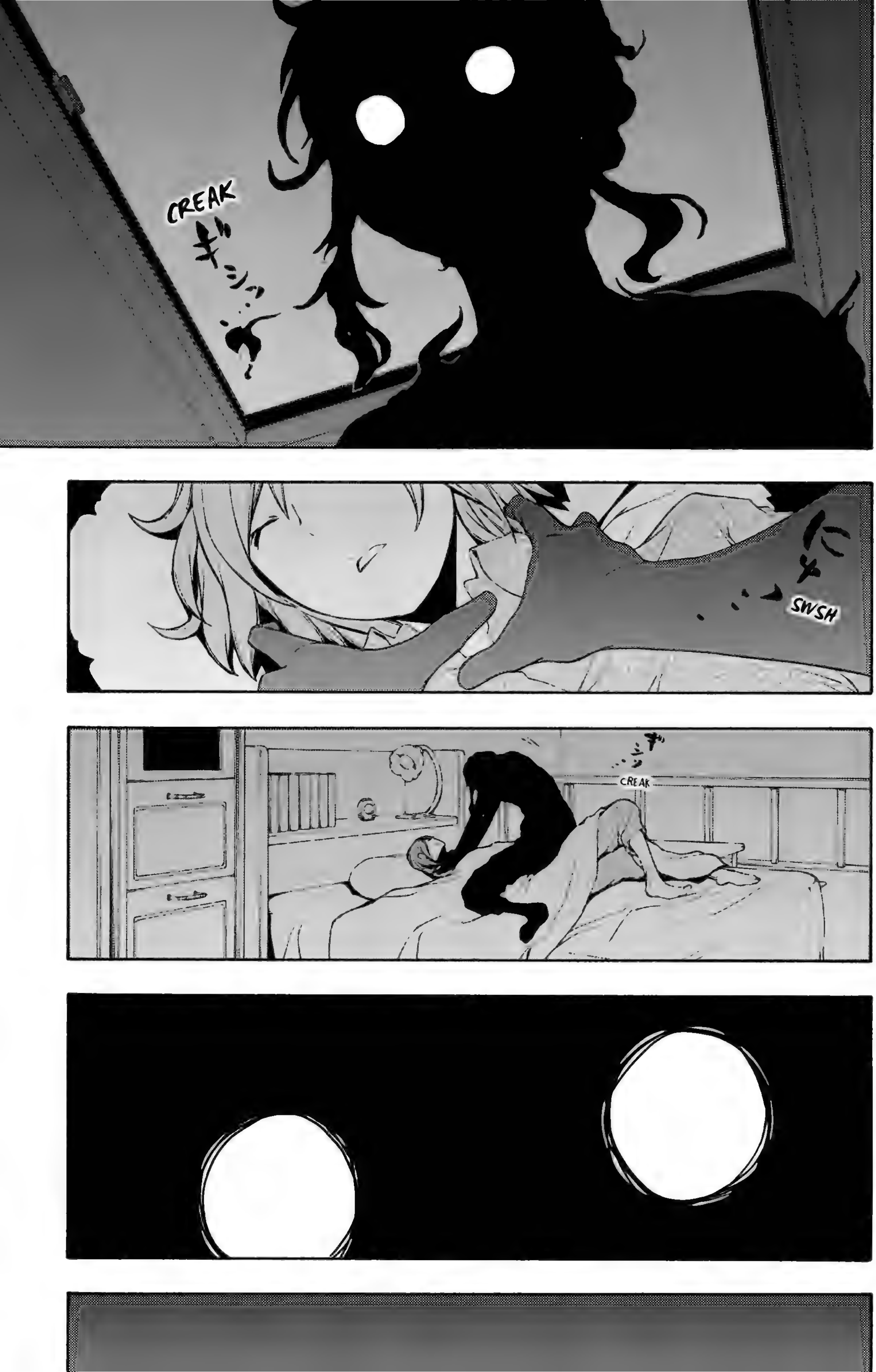
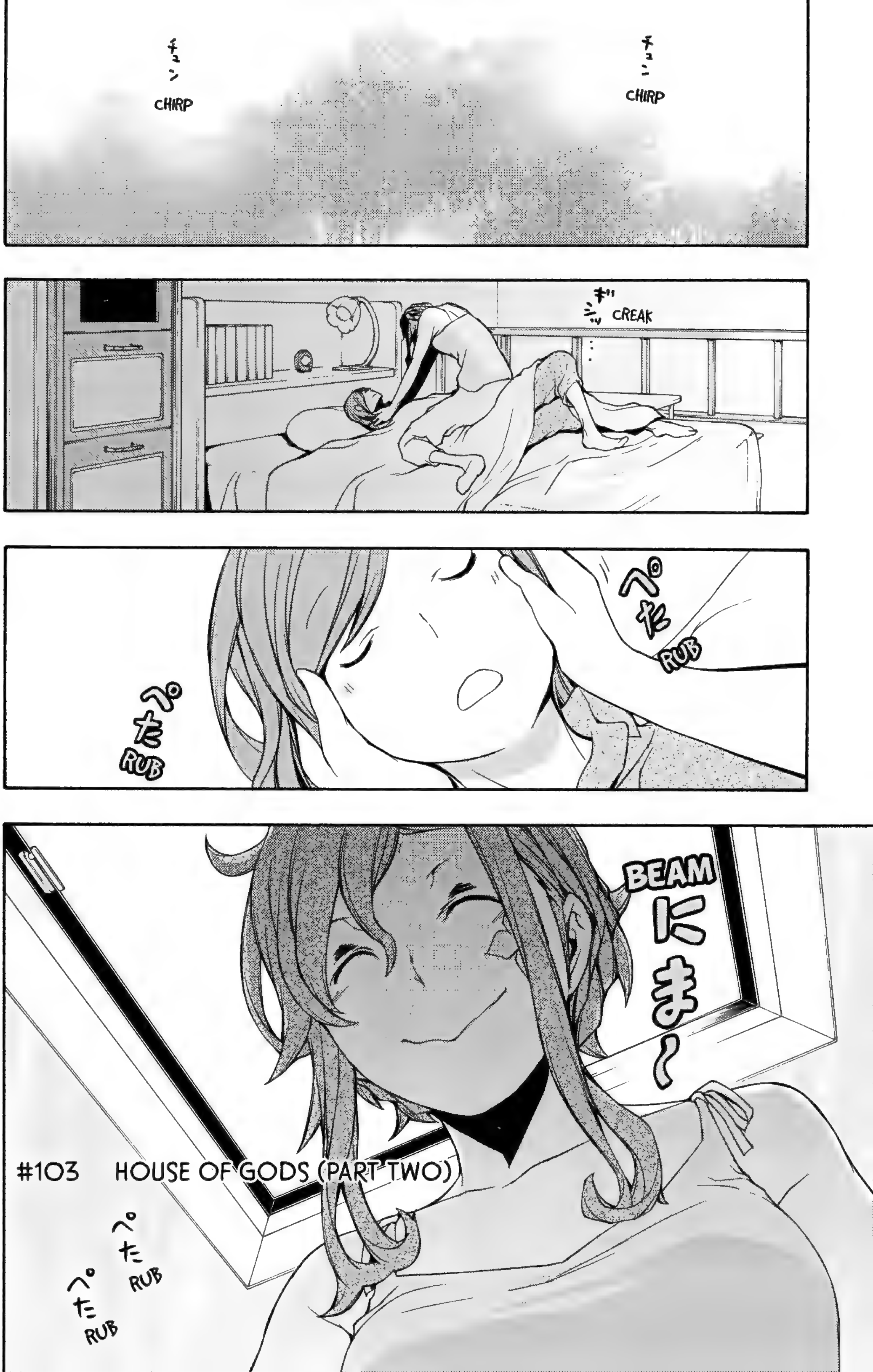
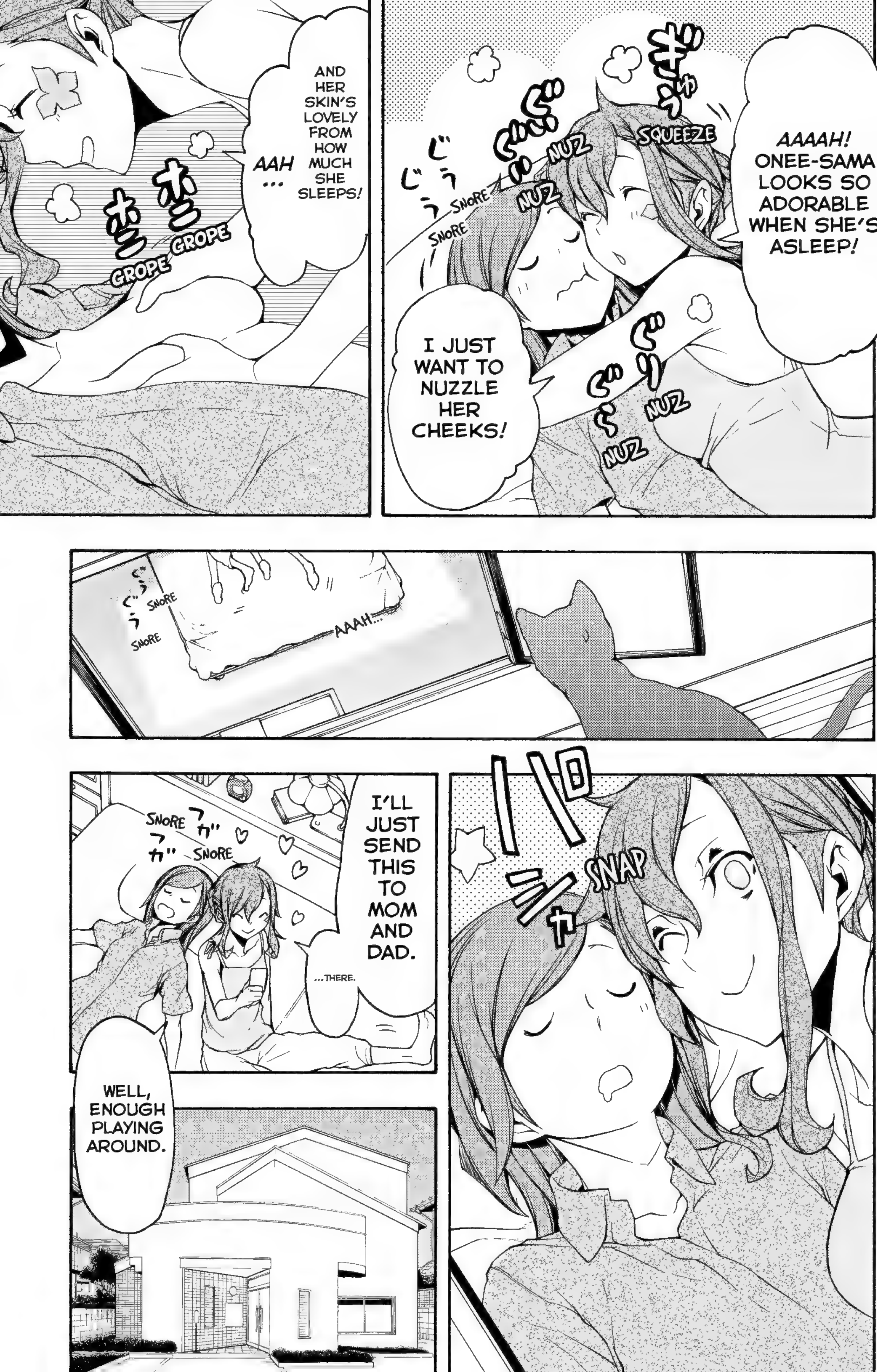
バキッ
CRACK
ギシッ
creak
creak
ギシ…
V・じゅり・F

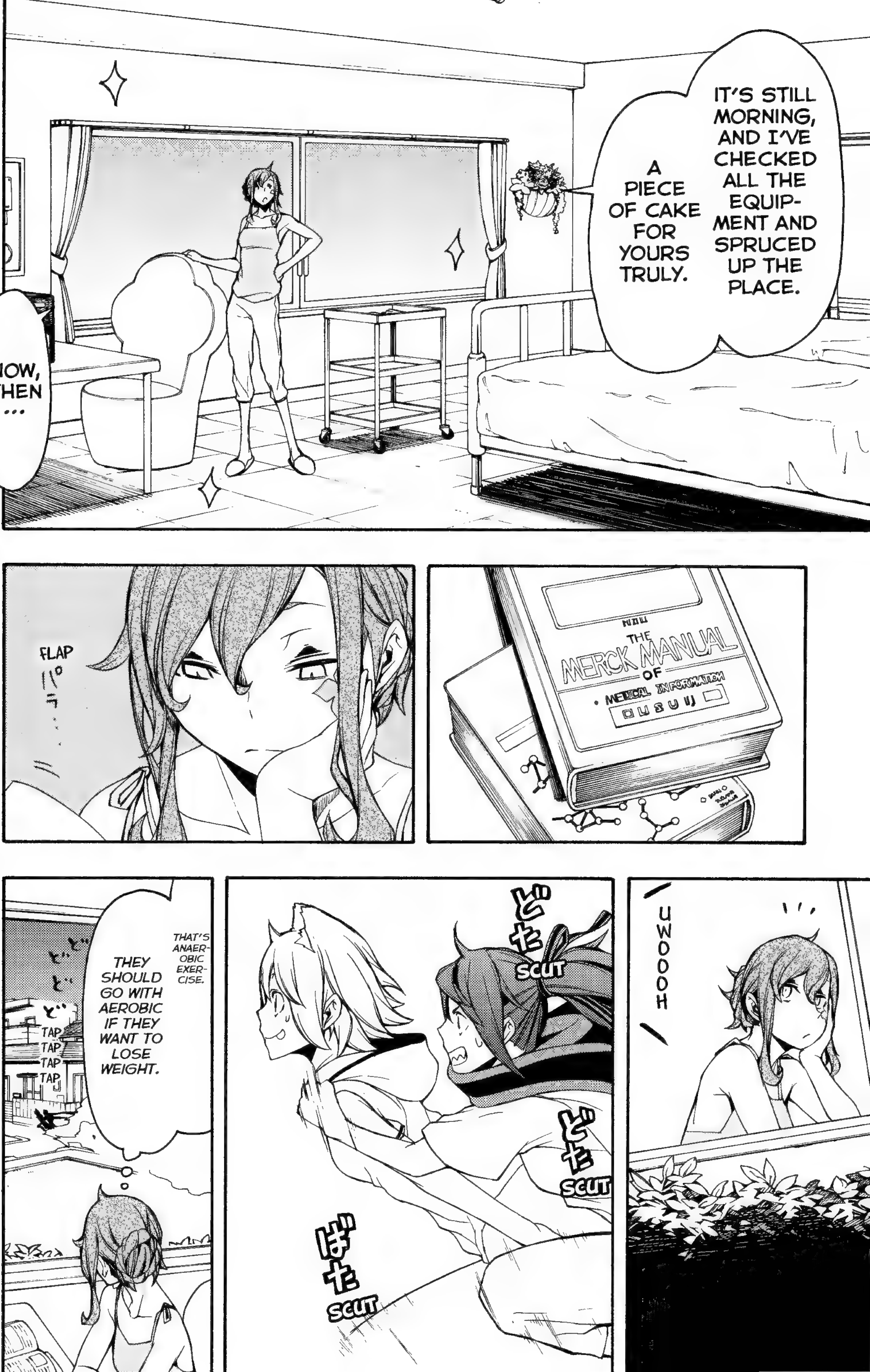
Badge: V. Juri F.

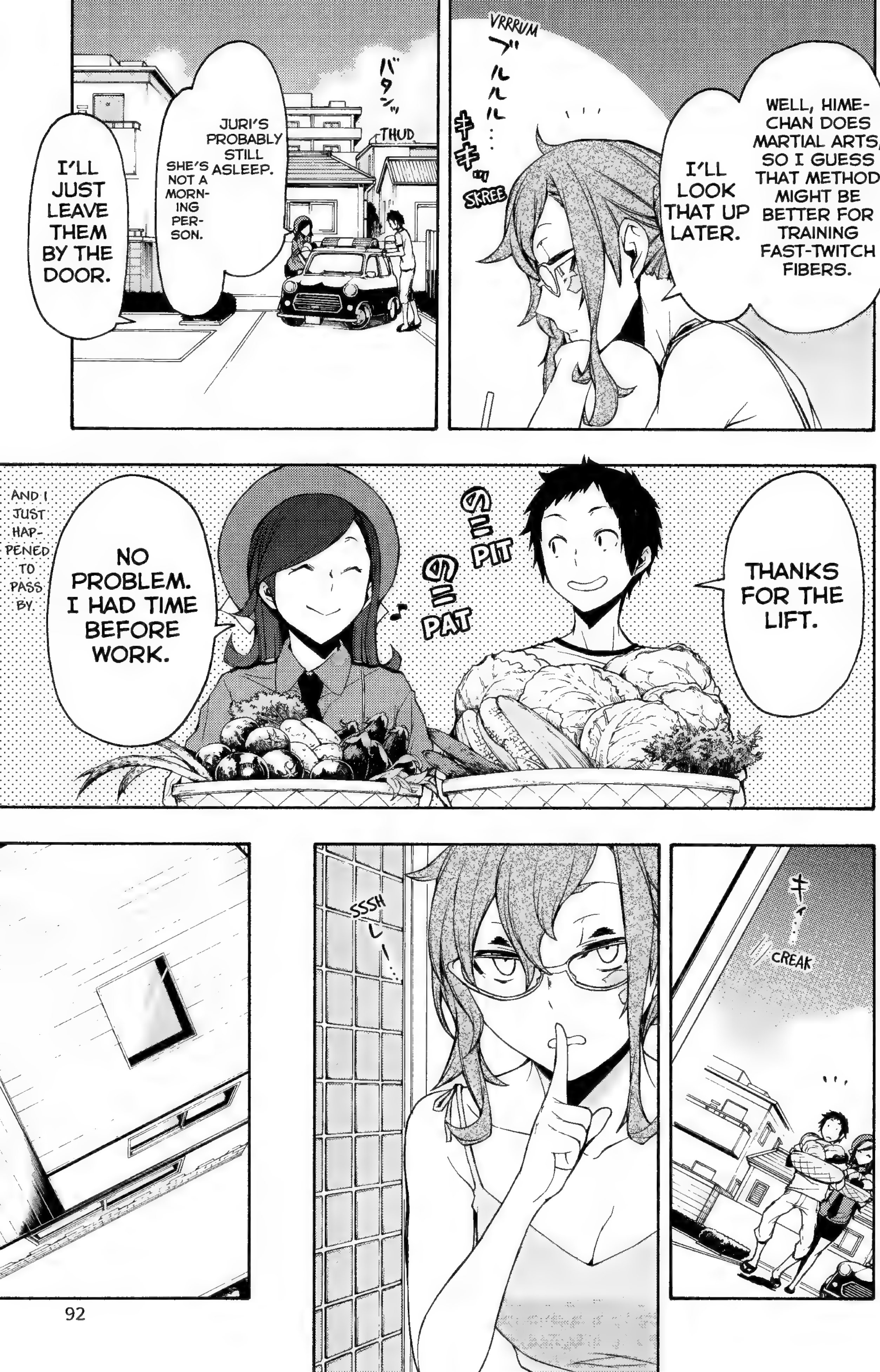

CREAK
ギシッ…
にゅ…
SWSH
ギシ…
CREAK

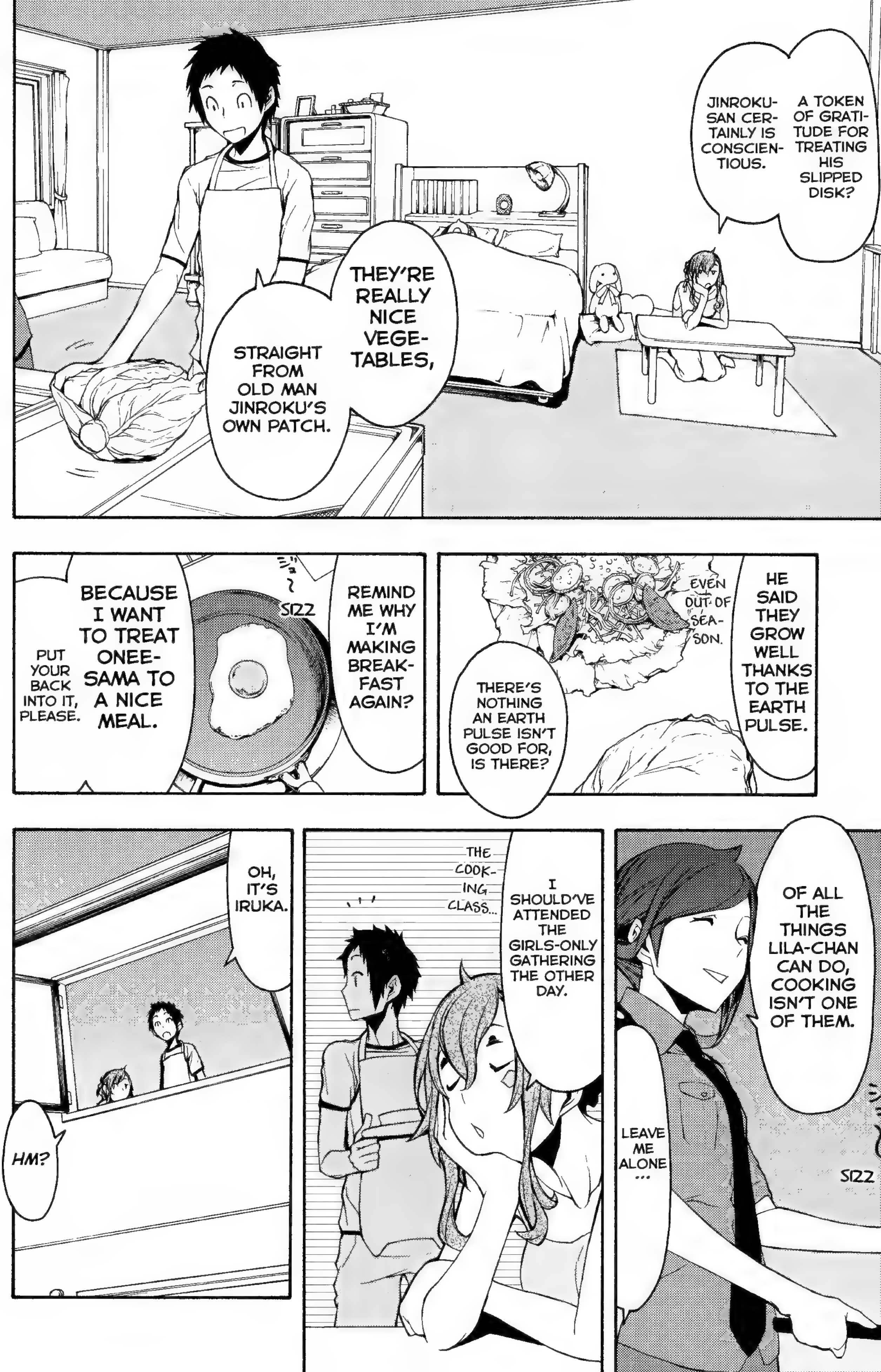

チュン
CHIRP
チュン
CHIRP
ギシッ
CREAK
…
ぺた
RUB
ぺた
RUB
にま～
BEAM
ぺた
RUB
ぺた
RUB

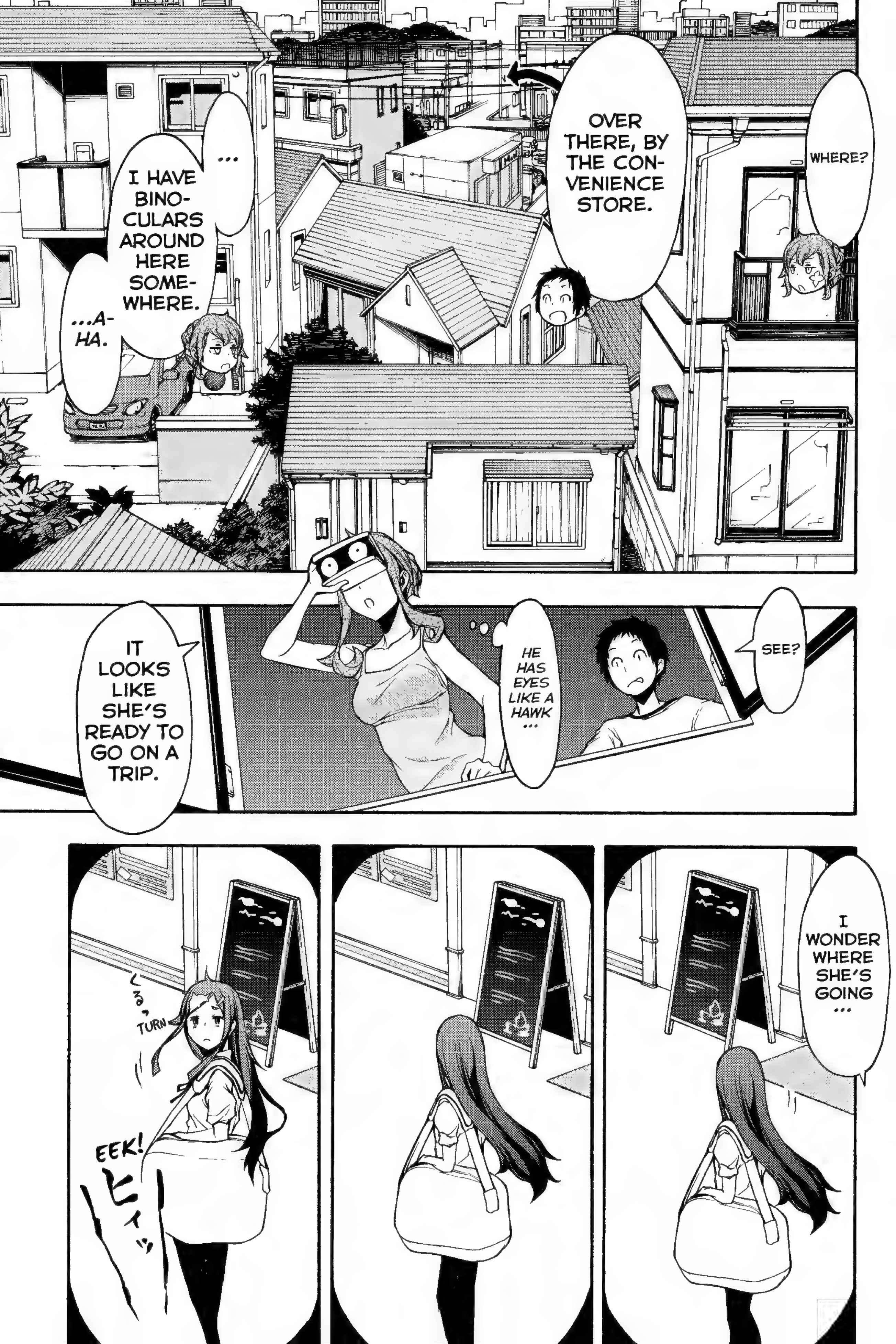
#103 HOUSE OF GODS (PART TWO)

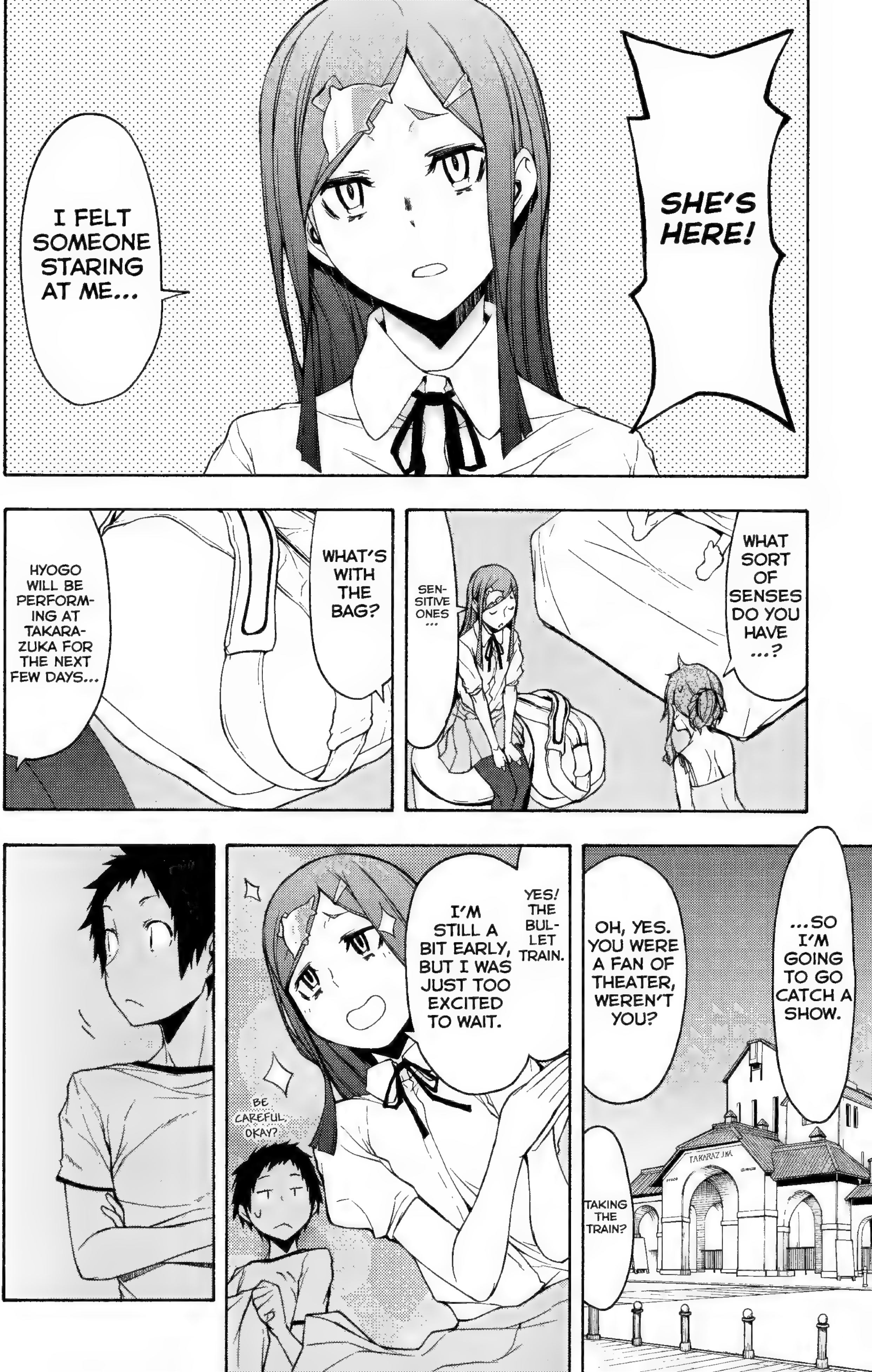

AAAAH! ONEE-SAMA LOOKS SO ADORABLE WHEN SHE'S ASLEEP!
SQUEEZE
NUZ NUZ
SNORE SNORE
I JUST WANT TO NUZZLE HER CHEEKS!
NUZ NUZ
AND HER SKIN'S LOVELY FROM HOW MUCH SHE SLEEPS!
AAH…
GROPE GROPE
SNORE SNORE
AAAH…
SNAP
I'LL JUST SEND THIS TO MOM AND DAD.
…THERE.
SNORE SNORE
WELL, ENOUGH PLAYING AROUND.

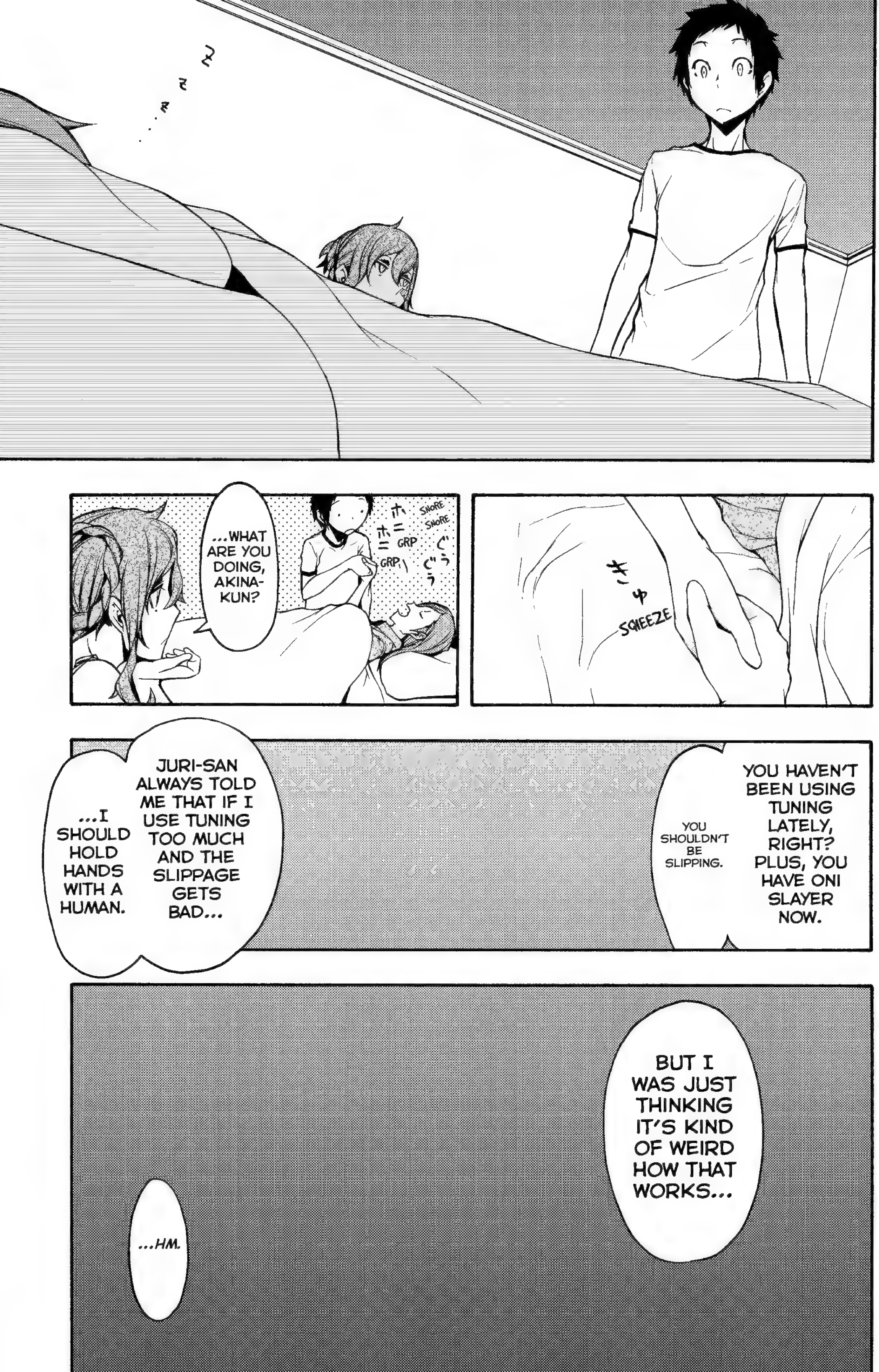

IT'S STILL MORNING, AND I'VE CHECKED ALL THE EQUIPMENT AND SPRUCED UP THE PLACE.
A PIECE OF CAKE FOR YOURS TRULY.
NOW, THEN …
THE MERCK MANUAL OF MEDICAL INFORMATION
FLAP パラ…
UWOOOOH
どた SCUT
どた SCUT
ばた SCUT
THEY SHOULD GO WITH AEROBIC IF THEY WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT.
THAT'S ANAEROBIC EXERCISE.
どどどど TAP TAP TAP TAP

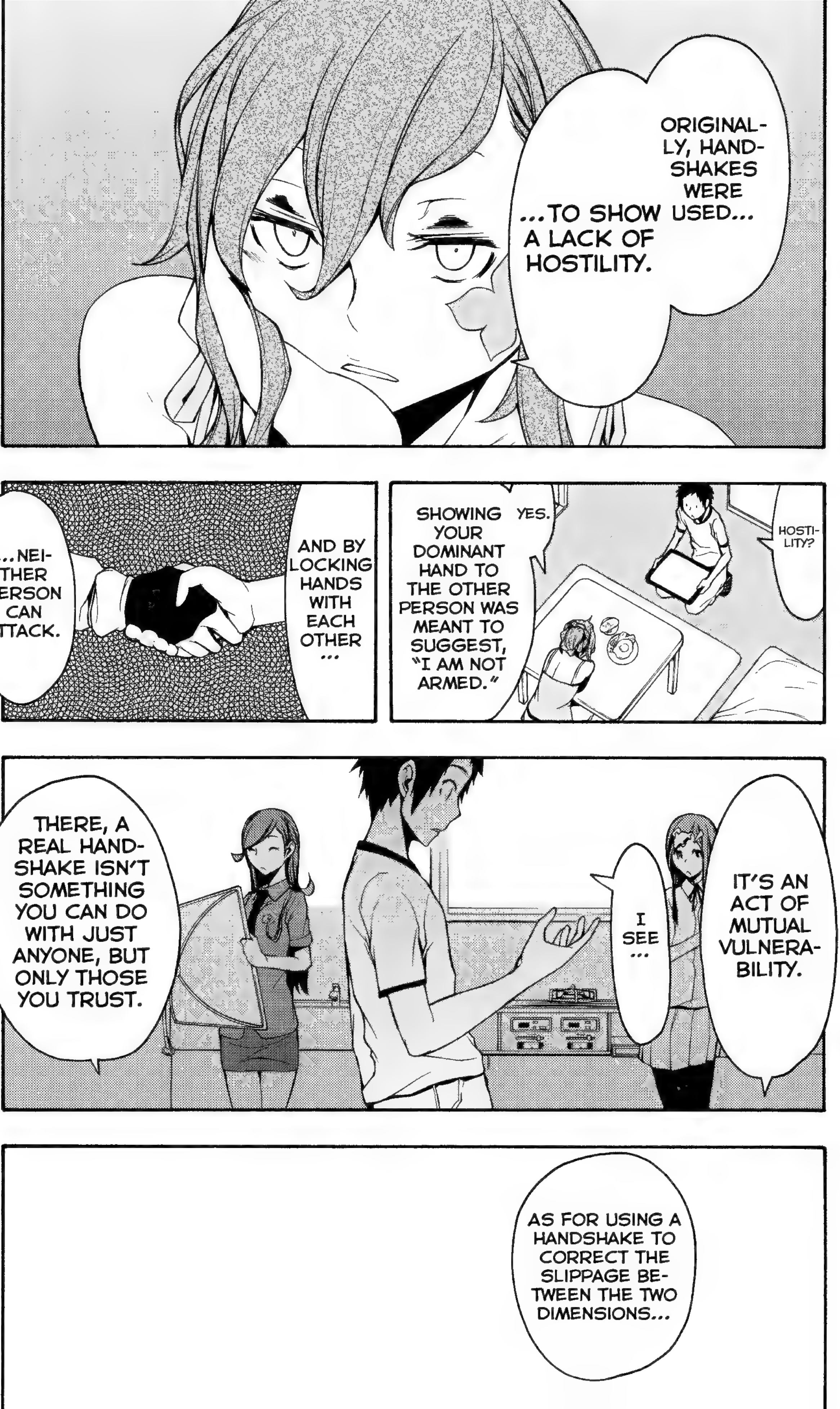

VRRRUM
ブルル…
キキッ
SKREE
WELL, HIME-CHAN DOES MARTIAL ARTS, SO I GUESS THAT METHOD MIGHT BE BETTER FOR TRAINING FAST-TWITCH FIBERS.
I'LL LOOK THAT UP LATER.
バタンッ
THUD
JURI'S PROBABLY STILL ASLEEP.
SHE'S NOT A MORNING PERSON.
I'LL JUST LEAVE THEM BY THE DOOR.
THANKS FOR THE LIFT.
PIT
PAT
NO PROBLEM. I HAD TIME BEFORE WORK.
AND I JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY.
キィ…
CREAK
SSSH
シー…

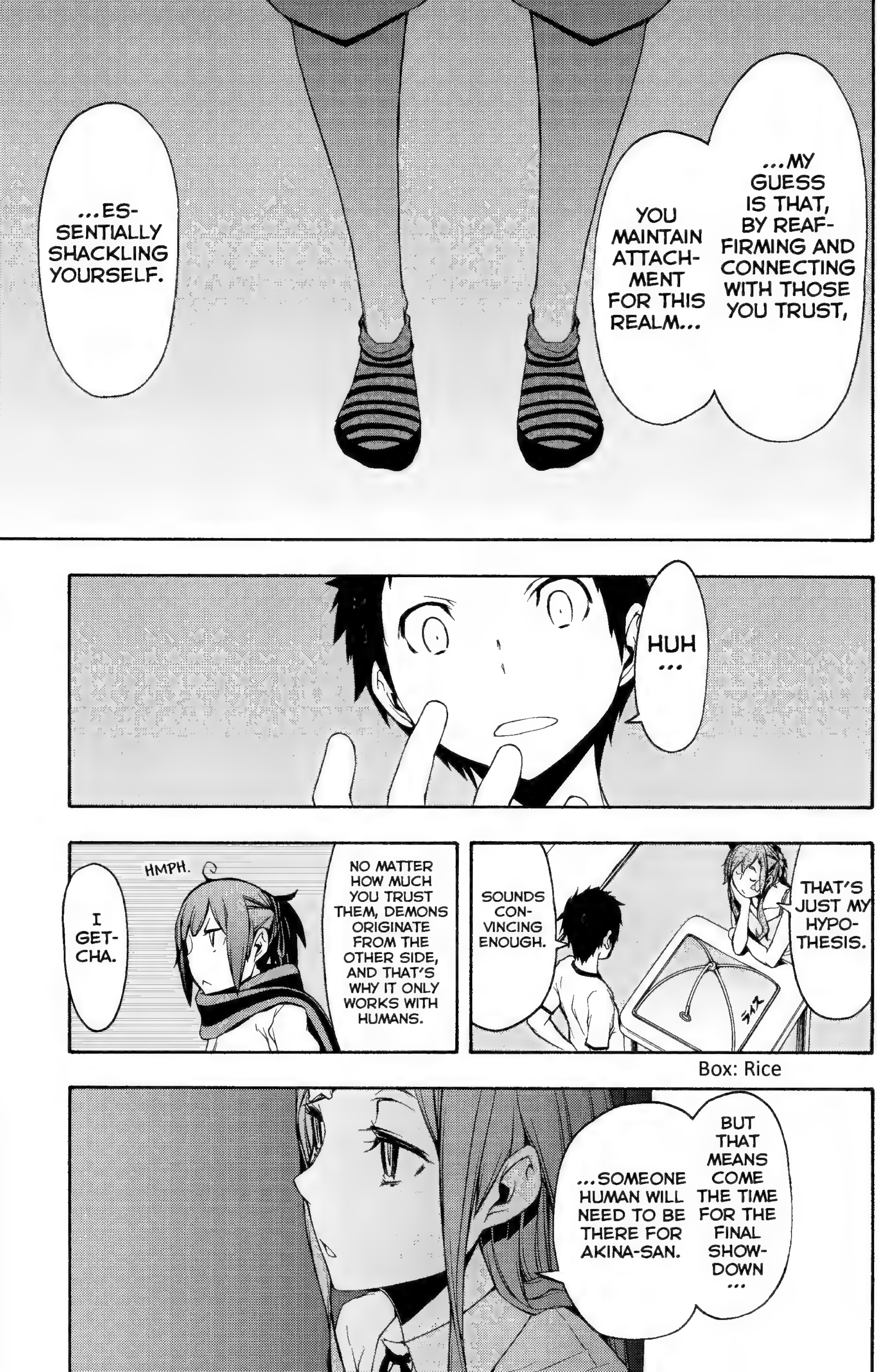

A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE FOR TREATING HIS SLIPPED DISK?
JINROKU-SAN CERTAINLY IS CONSCIENTIOUS.
THEY'RE REALLY NICE VEGETABLES,
STRAIGHT FROM OLD MAN JINROKU'S OWN PATCH.
HE SAID THEY GROW WELL THANKS TO THE EARTH PULSE.
EVEN OUT OF SEASON.
THERE'S NOTHING AN EARTH PULSE ISN'T GOOD FOR, IS THERE?
REMIND ME WHY I'M MAKING BREAKFAST AGAIN?
SIZZ
BECAUSE I WANT TO TREAT ONEE-SAMA TO A NICE MEAL.
PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT, PLEASE.
OF ALL THE THINGS LILA-CHAN CAN DO, COOKING ISN'T ONE OF THEM.
LEAVE ME ALONE...
SIZZ
I SHOULD'VE ATTENDED THE GIRLS-ONLY GATHERING THE OTHER DAY.
THE COOKING CLASS...
OH, IT'S IRUKA.
HM?


WHERE?
OVER THERE, BY THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
...
I HAVE BINOCULARS AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.
...A-HA.
SEE?
HE HAS EYES LIKE A HAWK...
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S READY TO GO ON A TRIP.
I WONDER WHERE SHE'S GOING...
くる、 TURN
EEK! ヒィッ

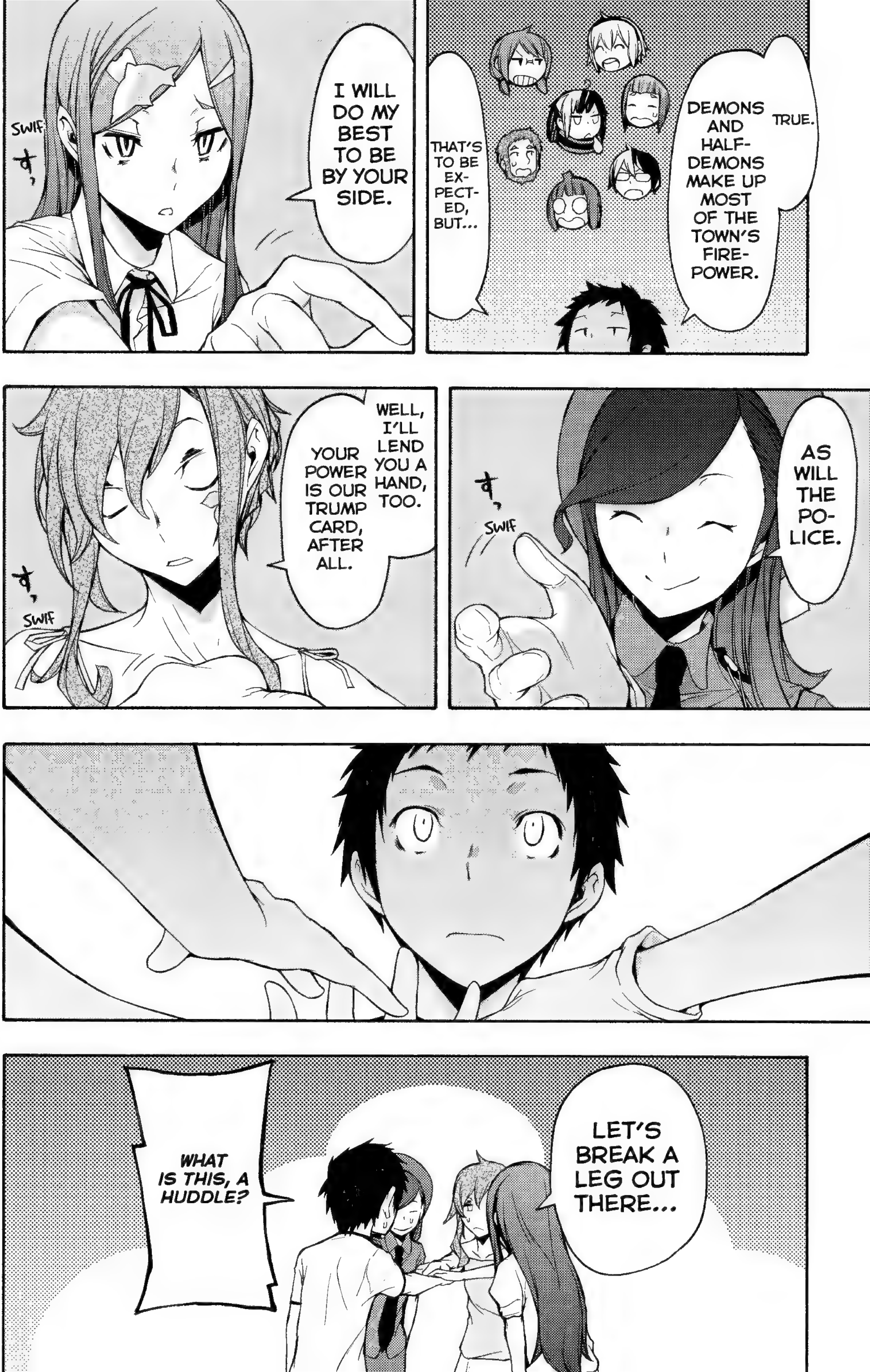

SHE'S HERE!
I FELT SOMEONE STARING AT ME...
WHAT SORT OF SENSES DO YOU HAVE...?
SENSITIVE ONES...
WHAT'S WITH THE BAG?
HYOGO WILL BE PERFORMING AT TAKARAZUKA FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS...
...SO I'M GOING TO GO CATCH A SHOW.
OH, YES. YOU WERE A FAN OF THEATER, WEREN'T YOU?
TAKARAZUKA
TAKING THE TRAIN?
YES! THE BULLET TRAIN.
I'M STILL A BIT EARLY, BUT I WAS JUST TOO EXCITED TO WAIT.
BE CAREFUL, OKAY?

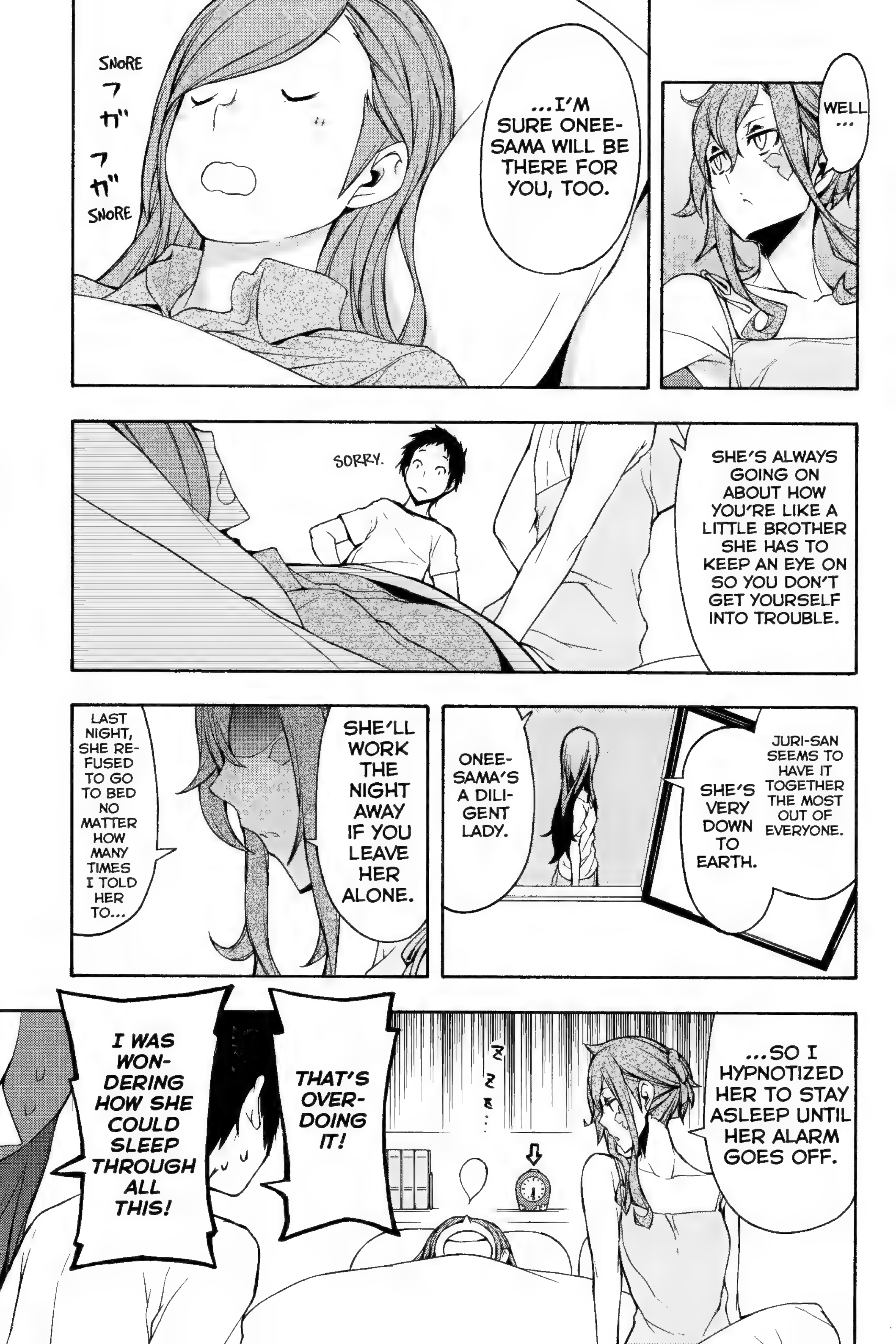

Z z z . . .
きゅ
SQUEEZE
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AKINA-KUN?
ホニ ホニ
GRP GRP
ぐうぐう
SNORE SNORE
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN USING TUNING LATELY, RIGHT? PLUS, YOU HAVE ONI SLAYER NOW.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SLIPPING.
JURI-SAN ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT IF I USE TUNING TOO MUCH AND THE SLIPPAGE GETS BAD...
...I SHOULD HOLD HANDS WITH A HUMAN.
BUT I WAS JUST THINKING IT'S KIND OF WEIRD HOW THAT WORKS...
...HM.

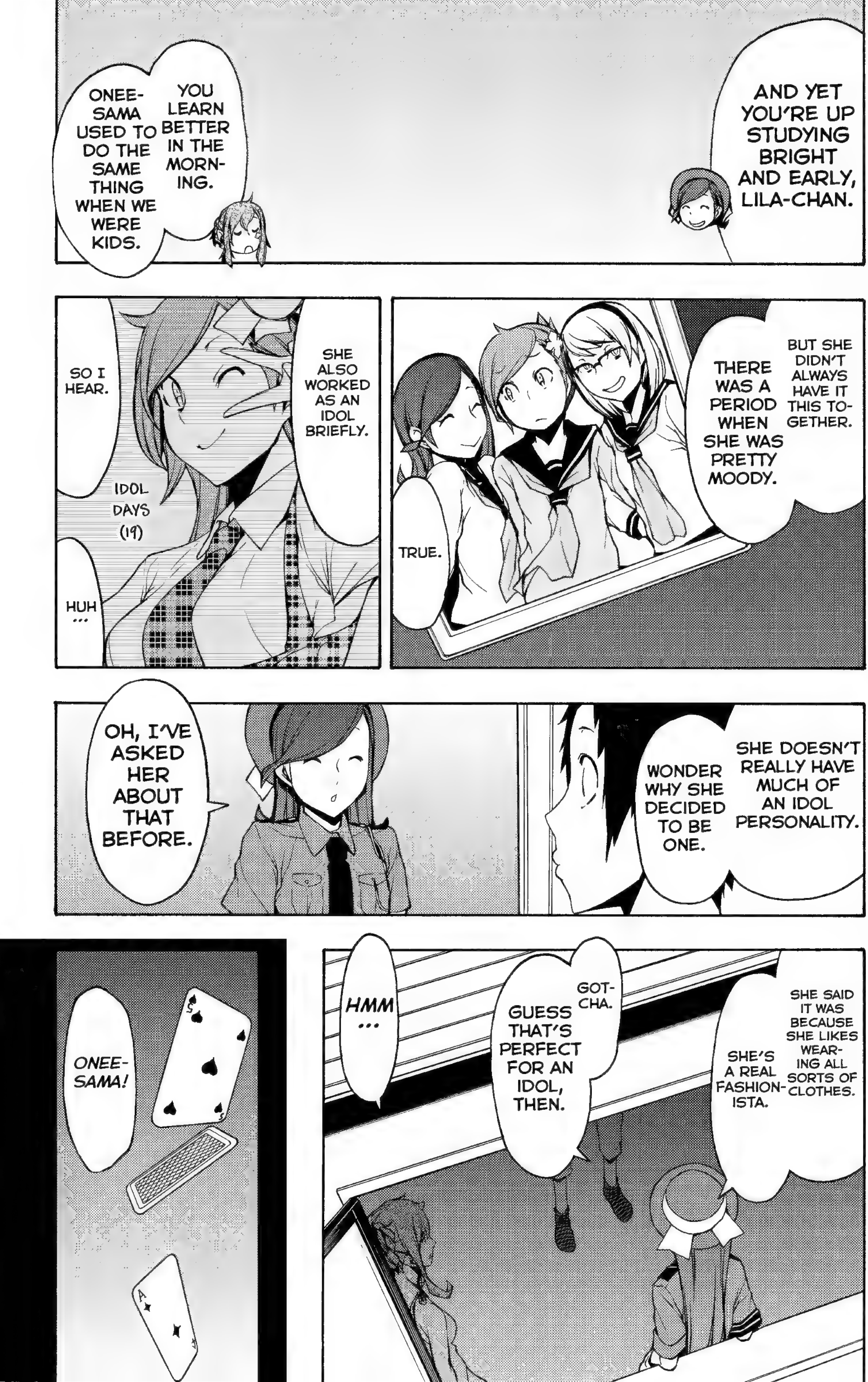

ORIGINALLY, HANDSHAKES WERE USED...
...TO SHOW A LACK OF HOSTILITY.
HOSTILITY?
YES.
SHOWING YOUR DOMINANT HAND TO THE OTHER PERSON WAS MEANT TO SUGGEST, "I AM NOT ARMED."
AND BY LOCKING HANDS WITH EACH OTHER...
...NEITHER PERSON CAN ATTACK.
IT'S AN ACT OF MUTUAL VULNERABILITY.
I SEE...
THERE, A REAL HANDSHAKE ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN DO WITH JUST ANYONE, BUT ONLY THOSE YOU TRUST.
AS FOR USING A HANDSHAKE TO CORRECT THE SLIPPAGE BETWEEN THE TWO DIMENSIONS...

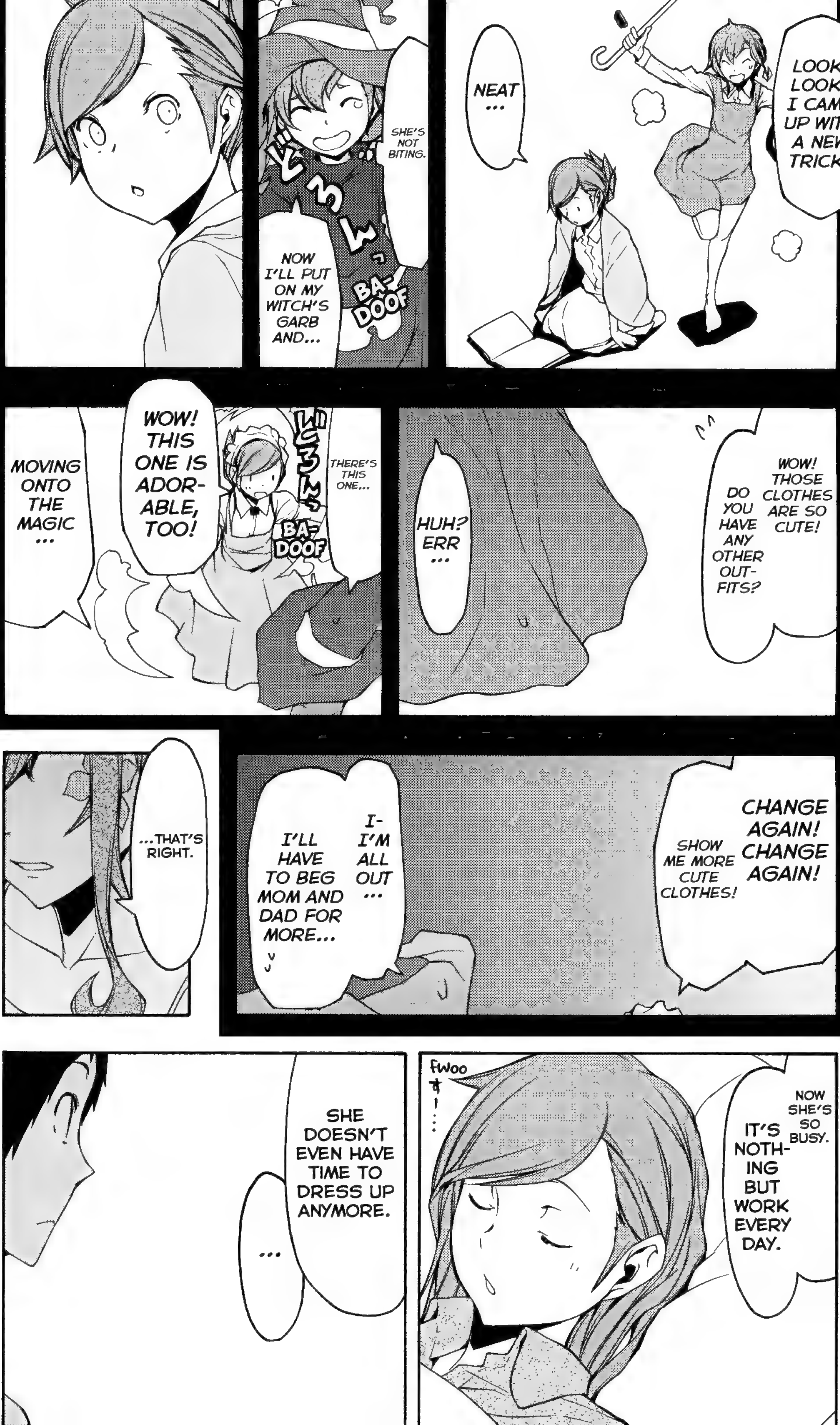

...MY GUESS IS THAT, BY REAFFIRMING AND CONNECTING WITH THOSE YOU TRUST,
YOU MAINTAIN ATTACHMENT FOR THIS REALM...
...ESSENTIALLY SHACKLING YOURSELF.
HUH...
THAT'S JUST MY HYPOTHESIS.
SOUNDS CONVINCING ENOUGH.
ライス
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRUST THEM, DEMONS ORIGINATE FROM THE OTHER SIDE, AND THAT'S WHY IT ONLY WORKS WITH HUMANS.
HMPH.
I GETCHA.
BUT THAT MEANS COME THE TIME FOR THE FINAL SHOWDOWN...
...SOMEONE HUMAN WILL NEED TO BE THERE FOR AKINA-SAN.

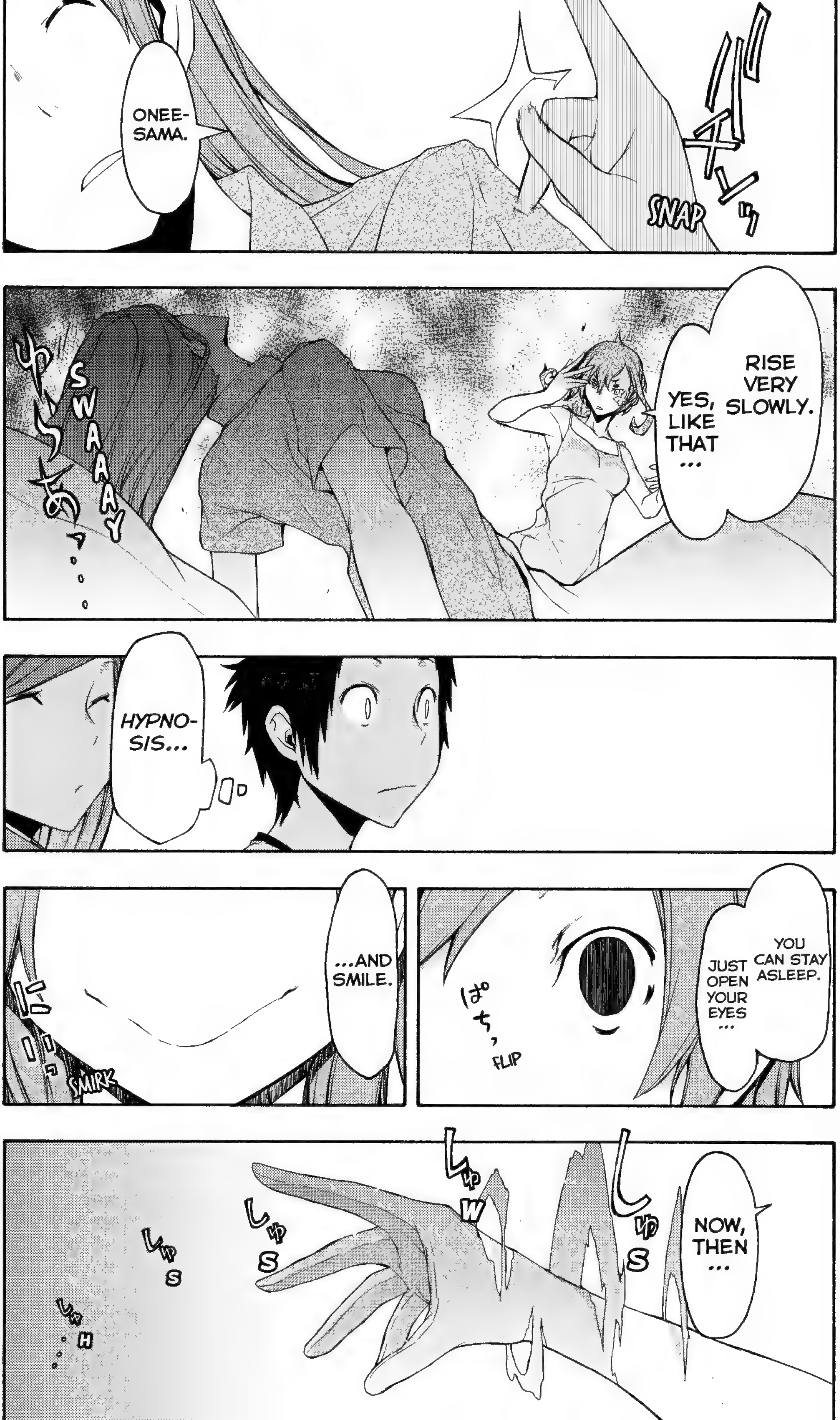
Box: Rice

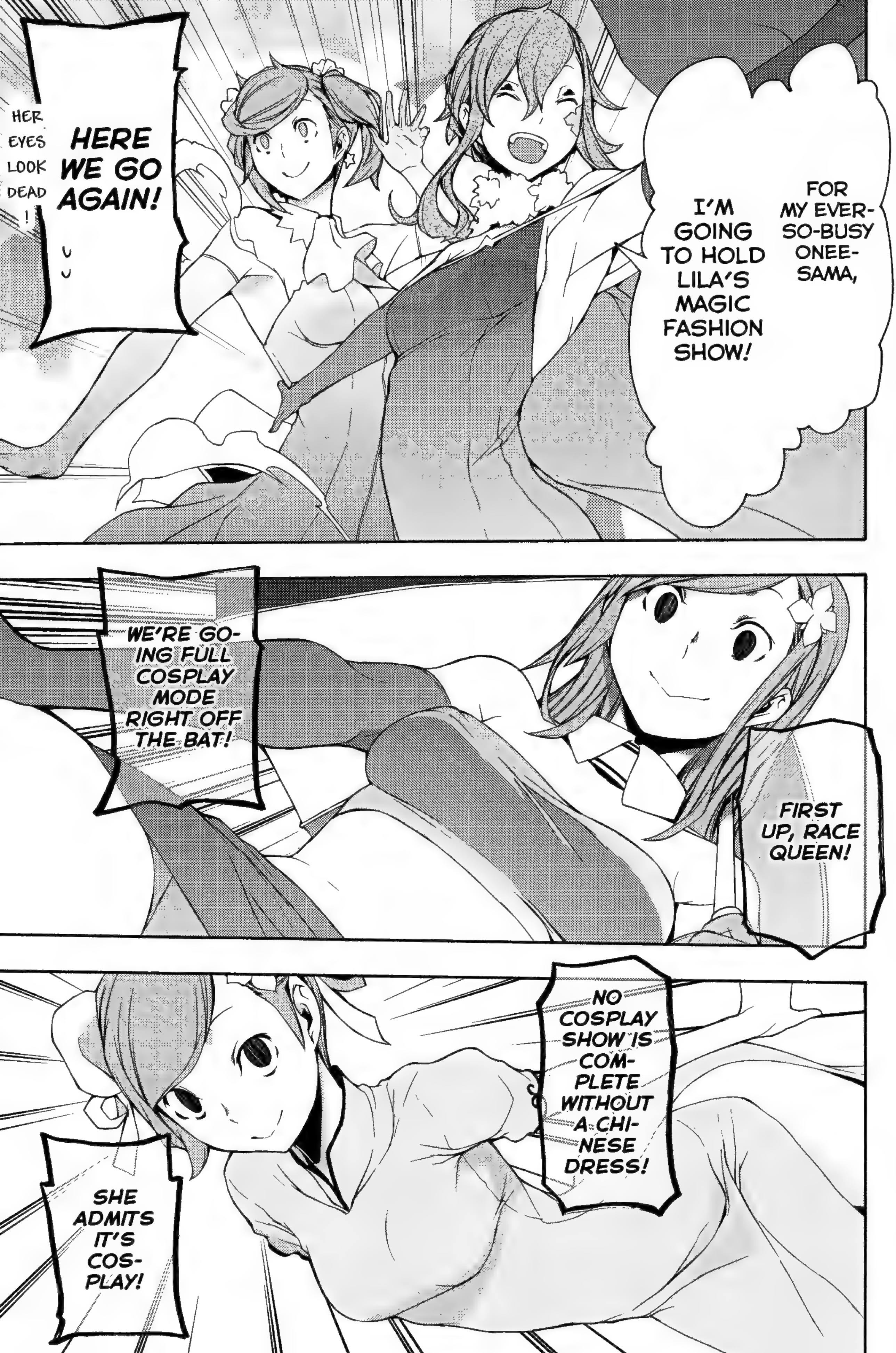

TRUE.
DEMONS AND HALF-DEMONS MAKE UP MOST OF THE TOWN'S FIREPOWER.
THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED, BUT...
I WILL DO MY BEST TO BE BY YOUR SIDE.
す, SWIF
AS WILL THE POLICE.
す, SWIF
WELL, I'LL LEND YOU A HAND, TOO.
YOUR POWER IS OUR TRUMP CARD, AFTER ALL.
す, SWIF
LET'S BREAK A LEG OUT THERE...
WHAT IS THIS, A HUDDLE?

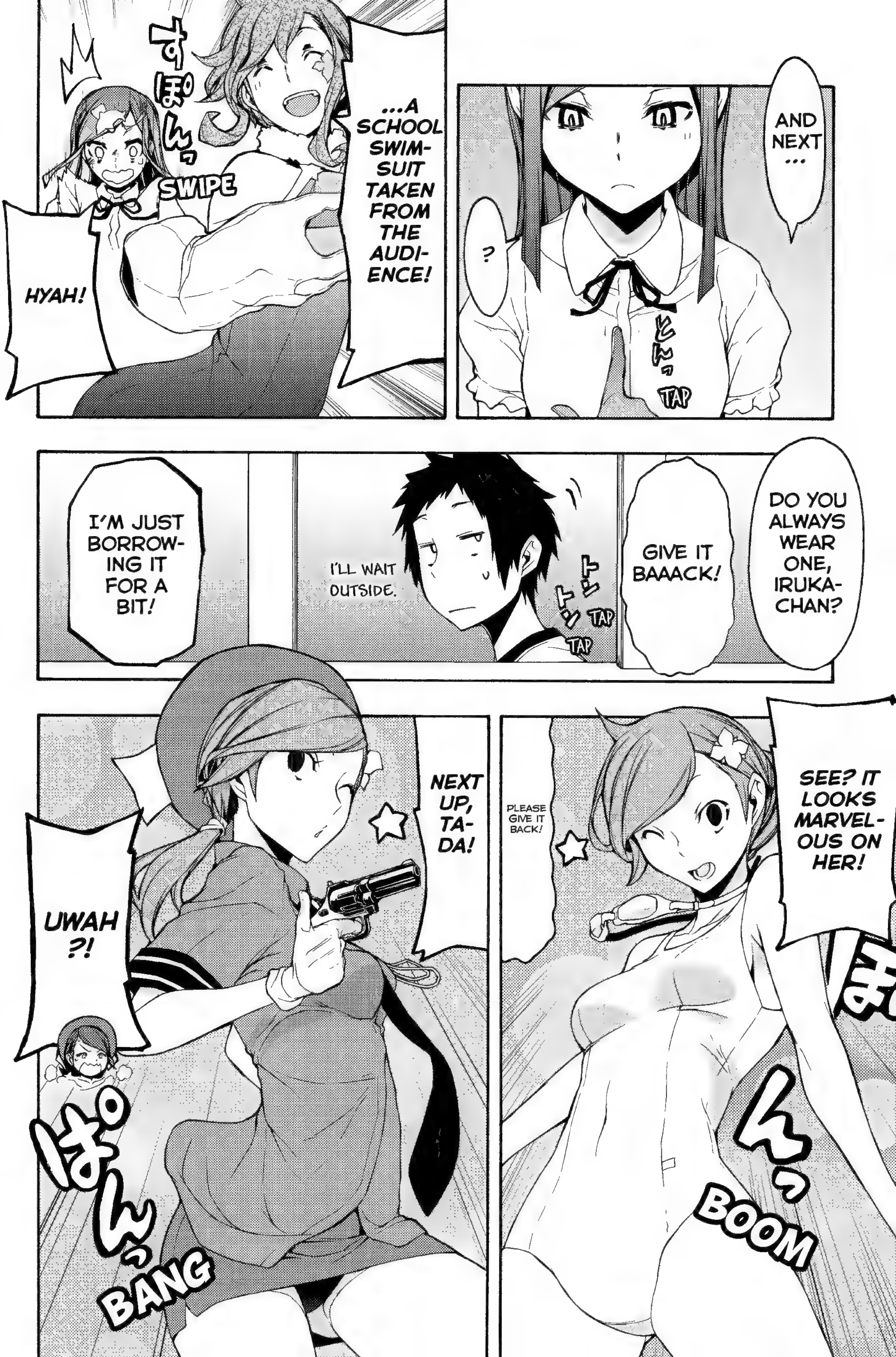

WELL...
...I'M SURE ONEE-SAMA WILL BE THERE FOR YOU, TOO.
SNORE フガ フガ SNORE
SHE'S ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT HOW YOU'RE LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER SHE HAS TO KEEP AN EYE ON SO YOU DON'T GET YOURSELF INTO TROUBLE.
SORRY.
JURI-SAN SEEMS TO HAVE IT TOGETHER THE MOST OUT OF EVERYONE.
SHE'S VERY DOWN TO EARTH.
ONEE-SAMA'S A DILIGENT LADY.
SHE'LL WORK THE NIGHT AWAY IF YOU LEAVE HER ALONE.
LAST NIGHT, SHE REFUSED TO GO TO BED NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TOLD HER TO...
...SO I HYPNOTIZED HER TO STAY ASLEEP UNTIL HER ALARM GOES OFF.
Z Z Z...
THAT'S OVERDOING IT!
I WAS WONDERING HOW SHE COULD SLEEP THROUGH ALL THIS!

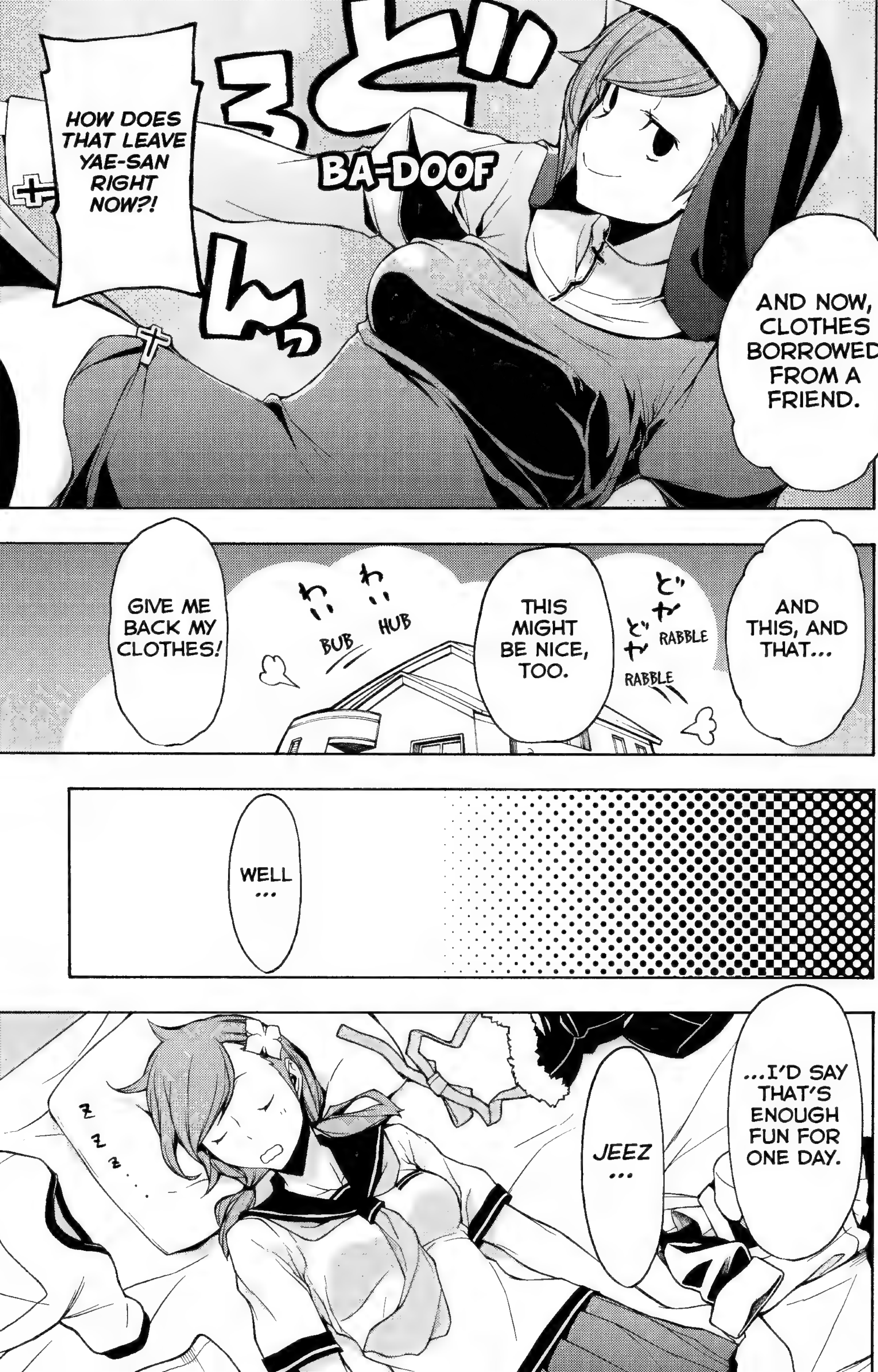

AND YET YOU'RE UP STUDYING BRIGHT AND EARLY, LILA-CHAN.
YOU LEARN BETTER IN THE MORNING.
ONEE-SAMA USED TO DO THE SAME THING WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
BUT SHE DIDN'T ALWAYS HAVE IT THIS TOGETHER.
THERE WAS A PERIOD WHEN SHE WAS PRETTY MOODY.
TRUE.
SHE ALSO WORKED AS AN IDOL BRIEFLY.
SO I HEAR.
IDOL DAYS (19)
HUH...
SHE DOESN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH OF AN IDOL PERSONALITY.
WONDER WHY SHE DECIDED TO BE ONE.
OH, I'VE ASKED HER ABOUT THAT BEFORE.
SHE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE SHE LIKES WEARING ALL SORTS OF CLOTHES.
SHE'S A REAL FASHIONISTA.
GOTCHA.
GUESS THAT'S PERFECT FOR AN IDOL, THEN.
HMM...
ONEE-SAMA!

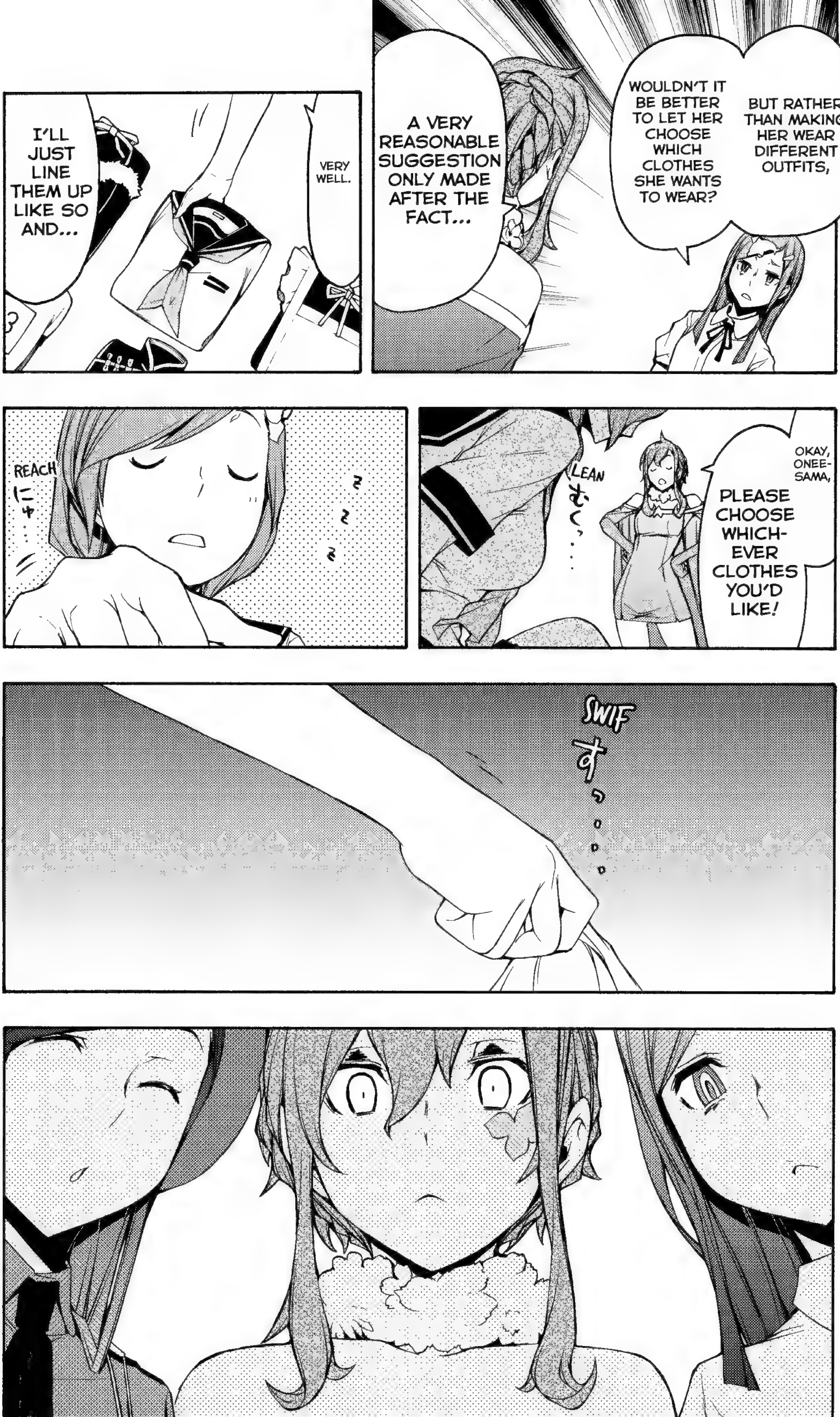

LOOK, LOOK! I CAME UP WITH A NEW TRICK!
NEAT...
SHE'S NOT BITING.
NOW I'LL PUT ON MY WITCH'S GARB AND...
どろん
BA-DOOF
WOW! THOSE CLOTHES ARE SO CUTE!
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER OUTFITS?
HUH? ERR...
THERE'S THIS ONE...
どろん
BA-DOOF
WOW! THIS ONE IS ADORABLE, TOO!
MOVING ONTO THE MAGIC...
CHANGE AGAIN! CHANGE AGAIN!
SHOW ME MORE CUTE CLOTHES!
I-I'M ALL OUT...
I'LL HAVE TO BEG MOM AND DAD FOR MORE...
...THAT'S RIGHT.
NOW SHE'S SO BUSY.
IT'S NOTHING BUT WORK EVERY DAY.
fwoo
SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO DRESS UP ANYMORE.
...

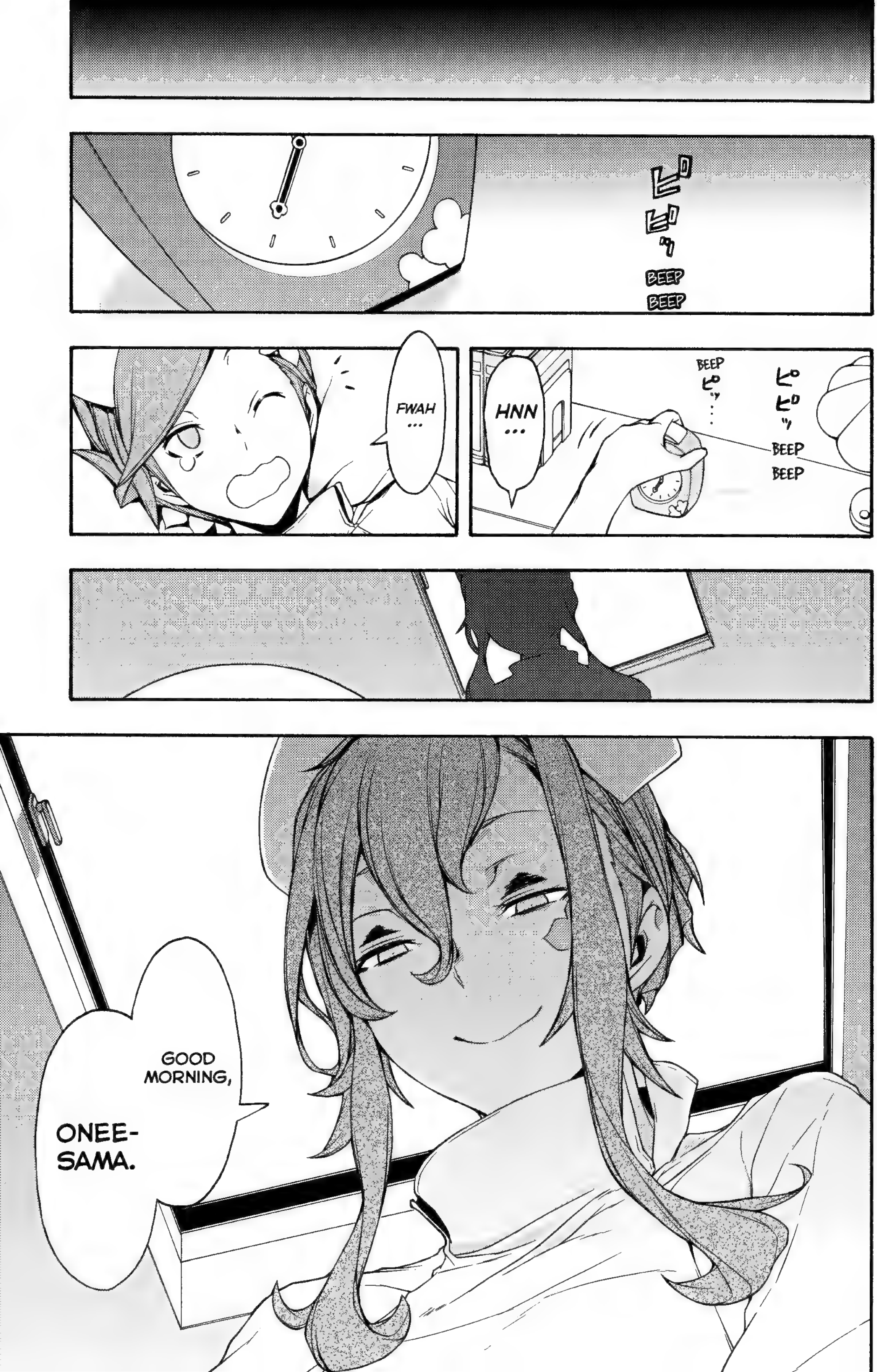

SNAP
ONEE-SAMA.
RISE VERY SLOWLY.
YES, LIKE THAT...
ゆらぁ
SWAAAAY
HYPNOSIS...
YOU CAN STAY ASLEEP.
JUST OPEN YOUR EYES...
ぱち、
FLIP
...AND SMILE.
SMIRK
NOW, THEN...
しゅ
しゅ
しゅ
しゅ
しゅ
SWISH

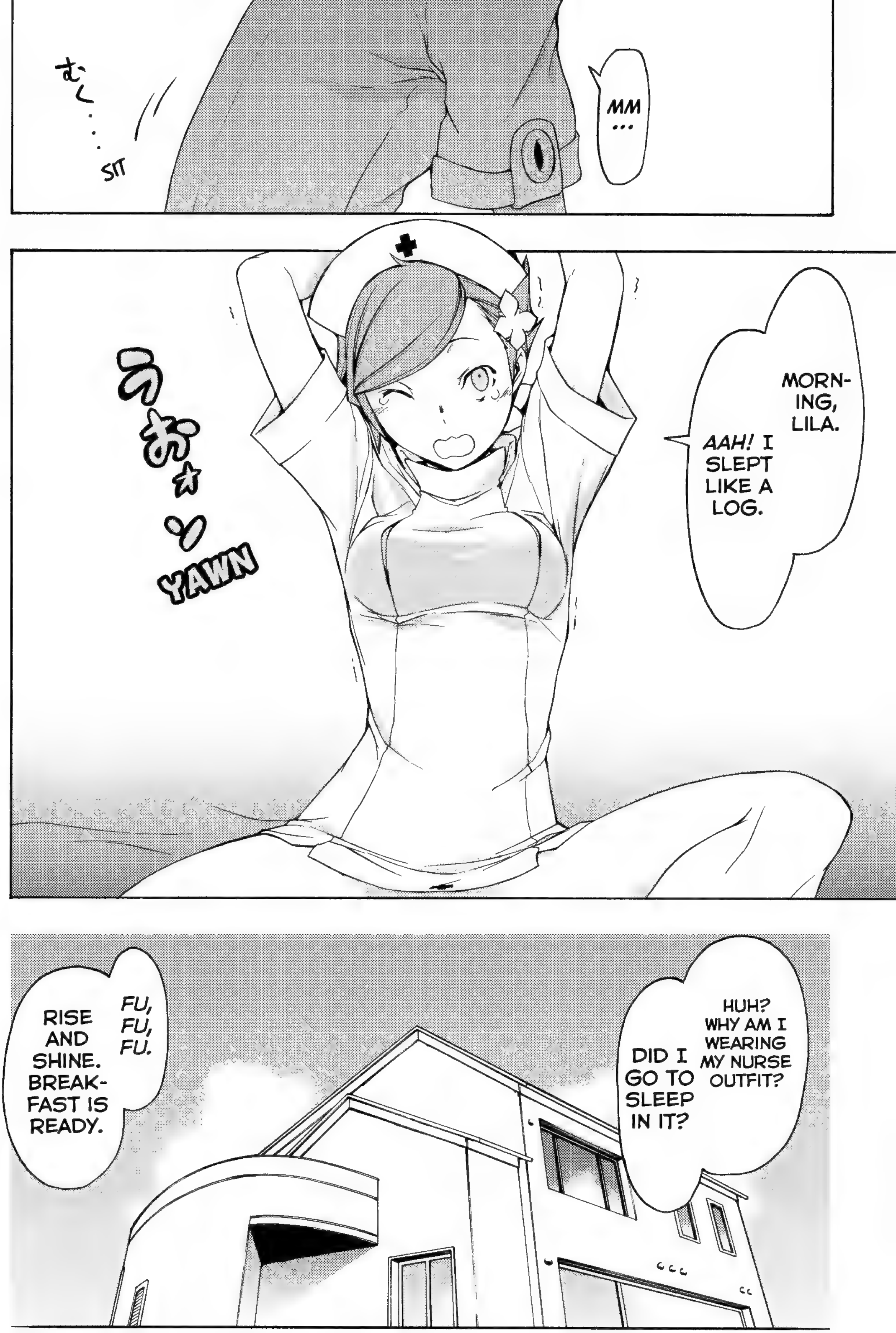

FOR MY EVER-SO-BUSY ONEE-SAMA,
I'M GOING TO HOLD LILA'S MAGIC FASHION SHOW!
HERE WE GO AGAIN!
HER EYES LOOK DEAD!
FIRST UP, RACE QUEEN!
WE'RE GOING FULL COSPLAY MODE RIGHT OFF THE BAT!
NO COSPLAY SHOW IS COMPLETE WITHOUT A CHINESE DRESS!
SHE ADMITS IT'S COSPLAY!


AND NEXT...
?
とんっ TAP
...A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT TAKEN FROM THE AUDIENCE!
すぽんっ SWIPE
HYAH!
DO YOU ALWAYS WEAR ONE, IRUKA-CHAN?
GIVE IT BAAACK!
トントン TAP TAP
I'LL WAIT OUTSIDE.
I'M JUST BORROWING IT FOR A BIT!
SEE? IT LOOKS MARVELOUS ON HER!
PLEASE GIVE IT BACK!
ぽんっ BOOM
NEXT UP, TA-DA!
UWAH?!
ぱんっ BANG

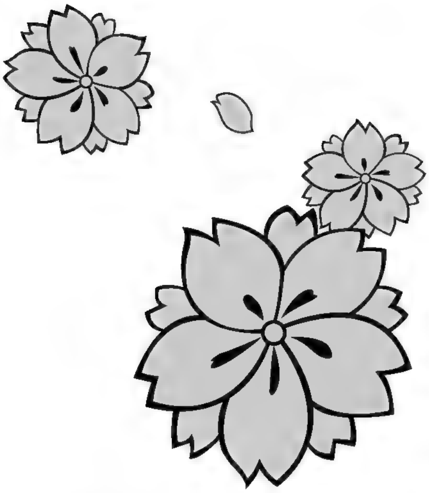

AND NOW, CLOTHES BORROWED FROM A FRIEND.
どろんっ
BA-DOOF
HOW DOES THAT LEAVE YAE-SAN RIGHT NOW?!
AND THIS, AND THAT...
どやどや
RABBLE RABBLE
THIS MIGHT BE NICE, TOO.
わいわい
BUB HUB
GIVE ME BACK MY CLOTHES!
WELL...
...I'D SAY THAT'S ENOUGH FUN FOR ONE DAY.
JEEZ...
Z Z Z...


BUT RATHER THAN MAKING HER WEAR DIFFERENT OUTFITS,
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO LET HER CHOOSE WHICH CLOTHES SHE WANTS TO WEAR?
A VERY REASONABLE SUGGESTION ONLY MADE AFTER THE FACT...
VERY WELL.
I'LL JUST LINE THEM UP LIKE SO AND...
OKAY, ONEE-SAMA,
PLEASE CHOOSE WHICHEVER CLOTHES YOU'D LIKE!
LEAN
むくっ…
z z z
REACH
にゅ…
SWIF
すっ…

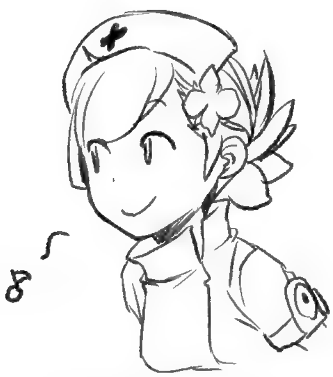

ピピッ
BEEP BEEP
ピピッ
BEEP BEEP
ピッ…
BEEP
HNN…
FWAH…
GOOD MORNING,
ONEE-SAMA.


MM ...
むく…… SIT
MORNING, LILA.
AAH! I SLEPT LIKE A LOG.
うぉ☆ん YAWN
HUH? WHY AM I WEARING MY NURSE OUTFIT?
DID I GO TO SLEEP IN IT?
FU, FU, FU.
RISE AND SHINE. BREAKFAST IS READY.

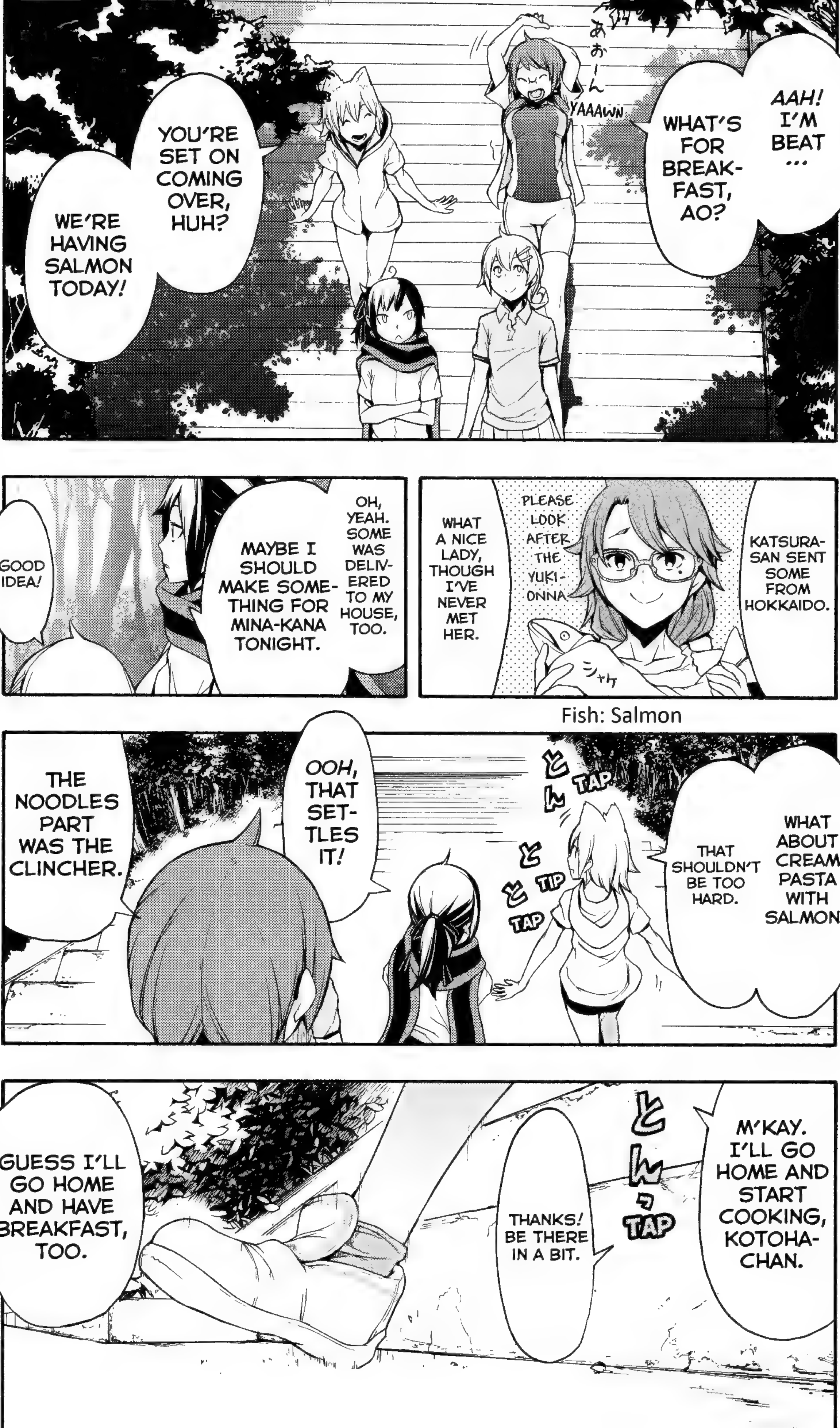
103RD NIGHT HOUSE OF GODS (PART TWO) END



YOZAKURA QUARTET 18

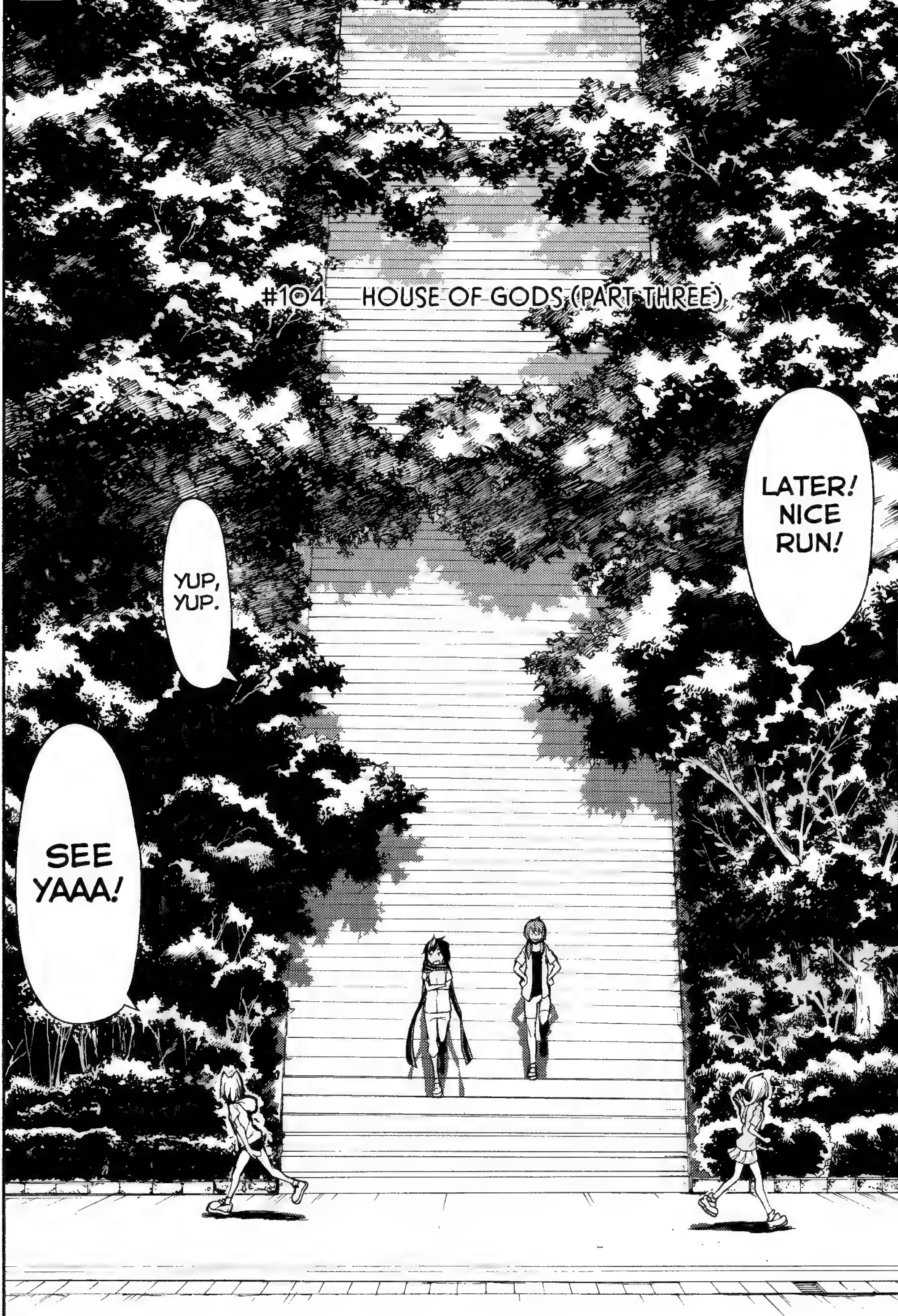


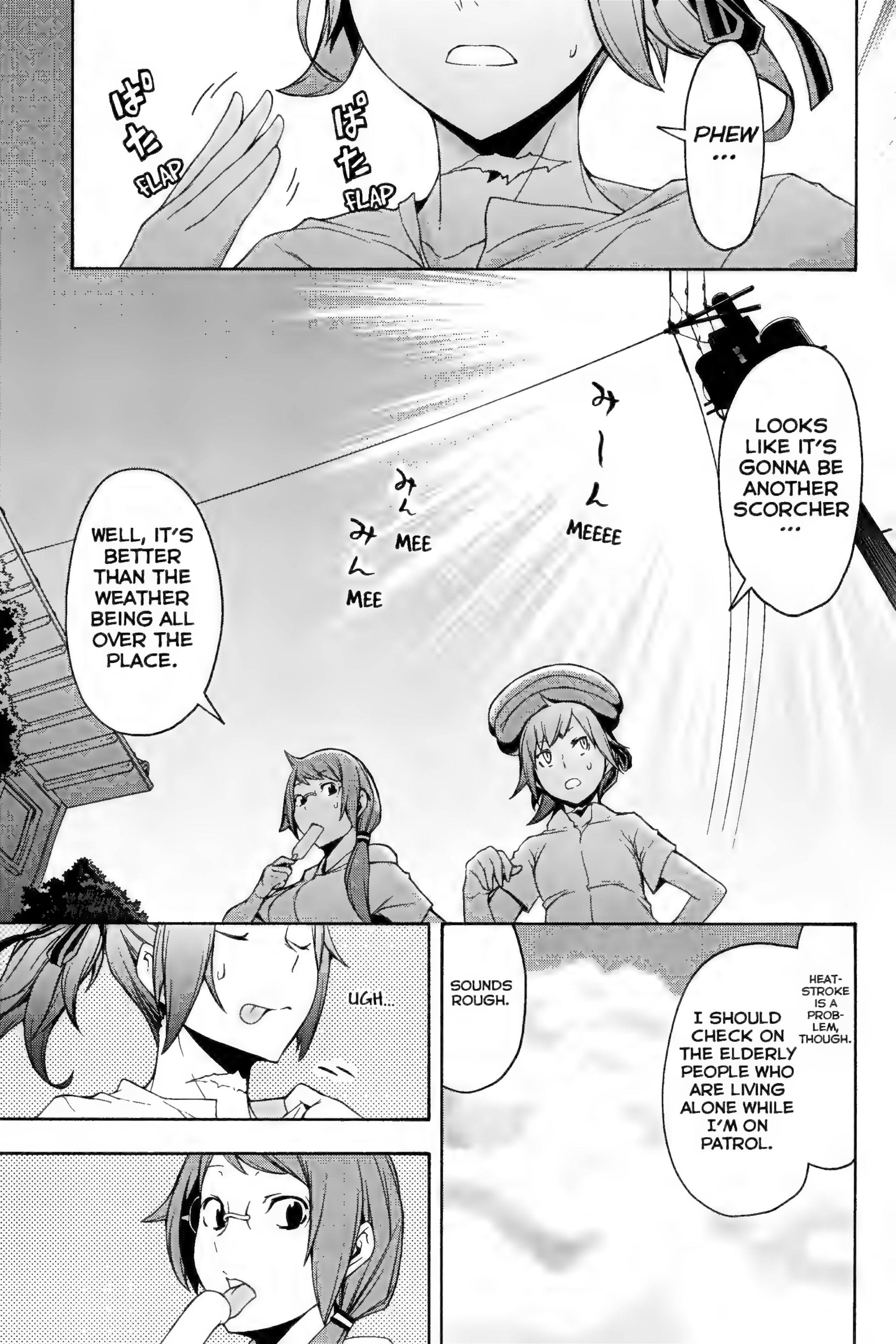
WEARS A NURSE OUTFIT DESPITE BEING A DOCTOR. (COSPLAY)

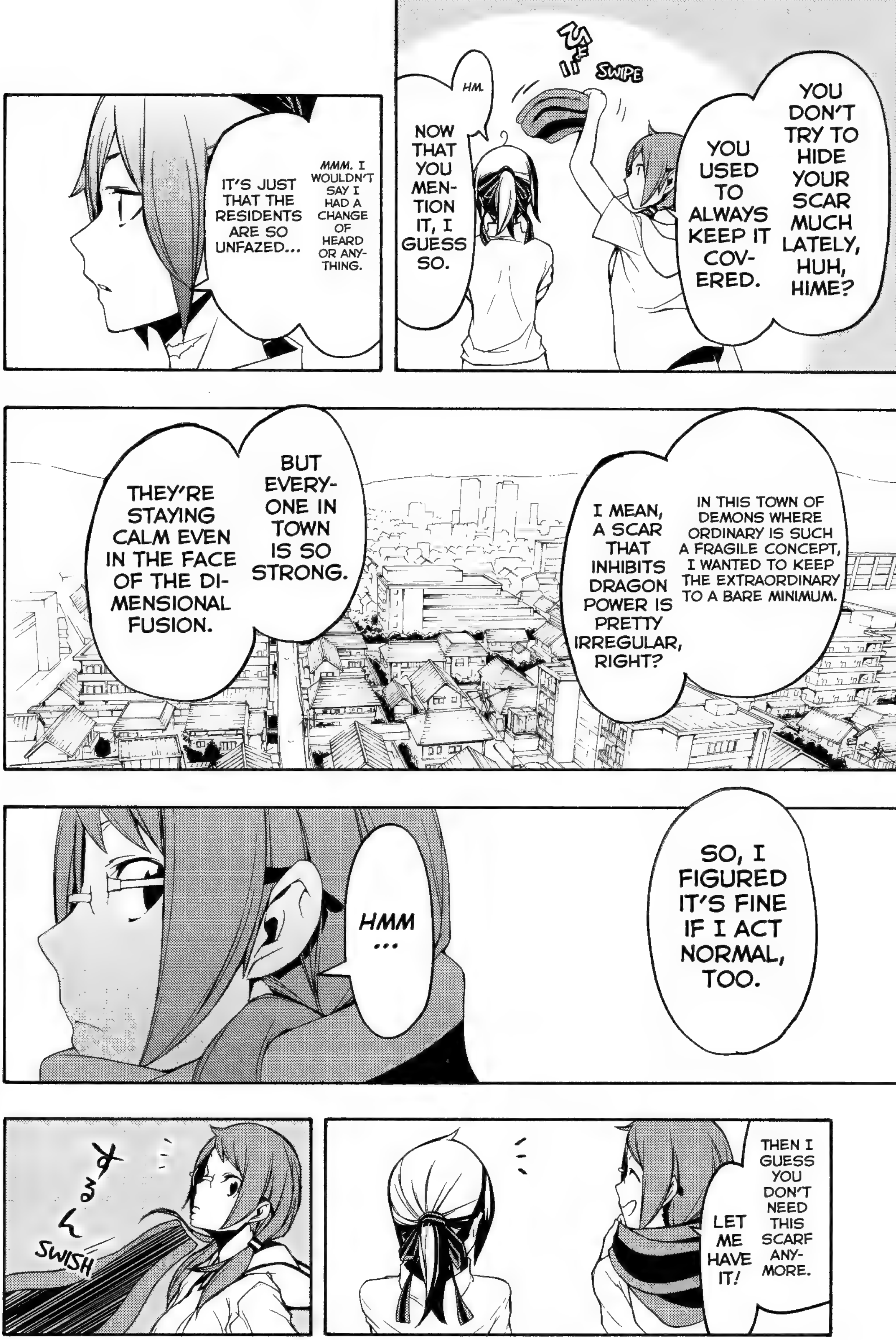

AAH! I'M BEAT…
WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST, AO?
あお～ん
YAAAWN
YOU'RE SET ON COMING OVER, HUH?
WE'RE HAVING SALMON TODAY!
KATSURA-SAN SENT SOME FROM HOKKAIDO.
PLEASE LOOK AFTER THE YUKI-ONNA
シャケ
WHAT A NICE LADY, THOUGH I'VE NEVER MET HER.
OH, YEAH. SOME WAS DELIVERED TO MY HOUSE, TOO.
MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE SOMETHING FOR MINA-KANA TONIGHT.
GOOD IDEA!
WHAT ABOUT CREAM PASTA WITH SALMON?
THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD.
とん TAP
と TIP
と TAP
OOH, THAT SETTLES IT!
THE NOODLES PART WAS THE CLINCHER.
M'KAY. I'LL GO HOME AND START COOKING, KOTOHA-CHAN.
とんっ TAP
THANKS! BE THERE IN A BIT.
GUESS I'LL GO HOME AND HAVE BREAKFAST, TOO.

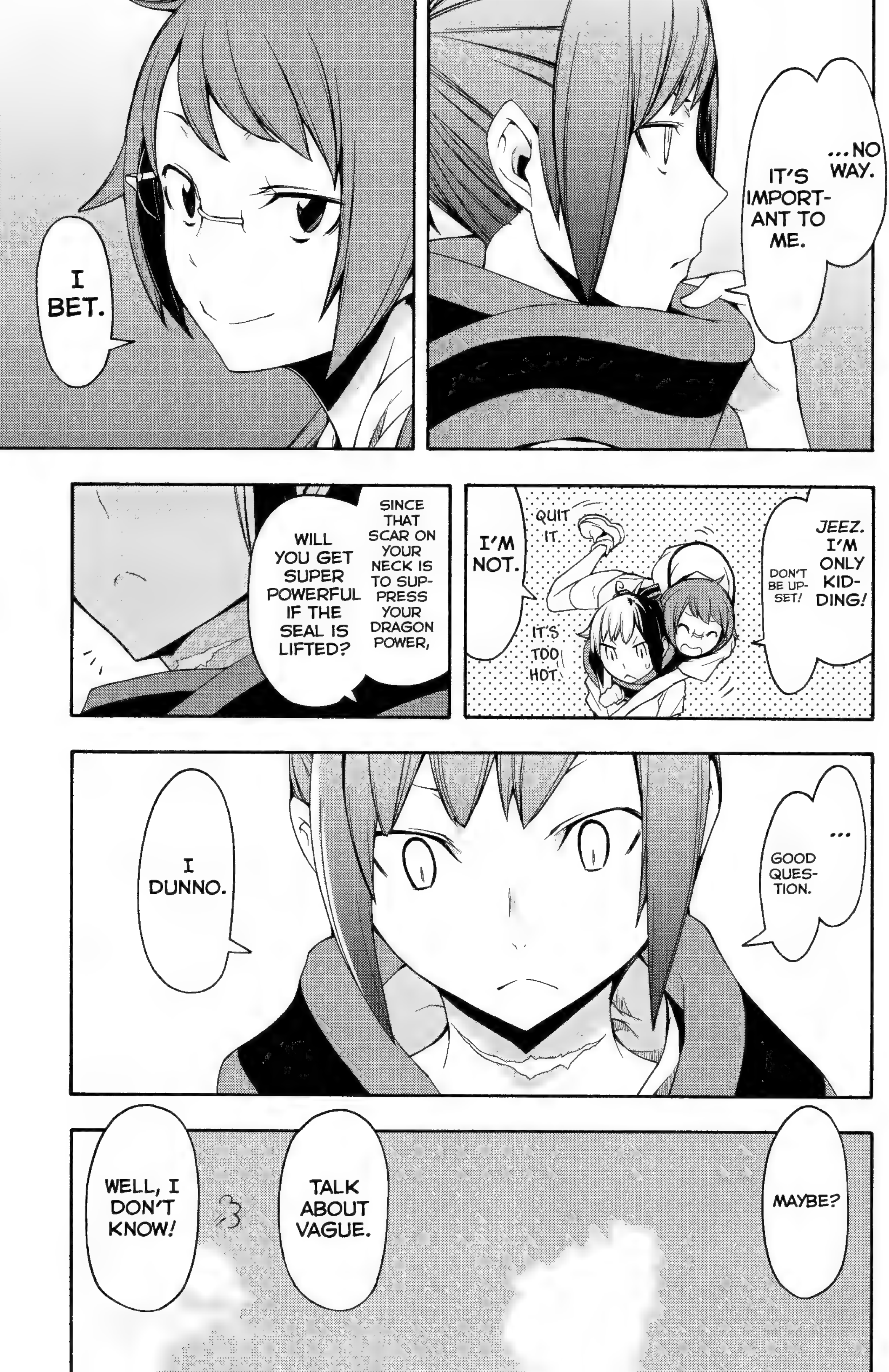
Fish: Salmon

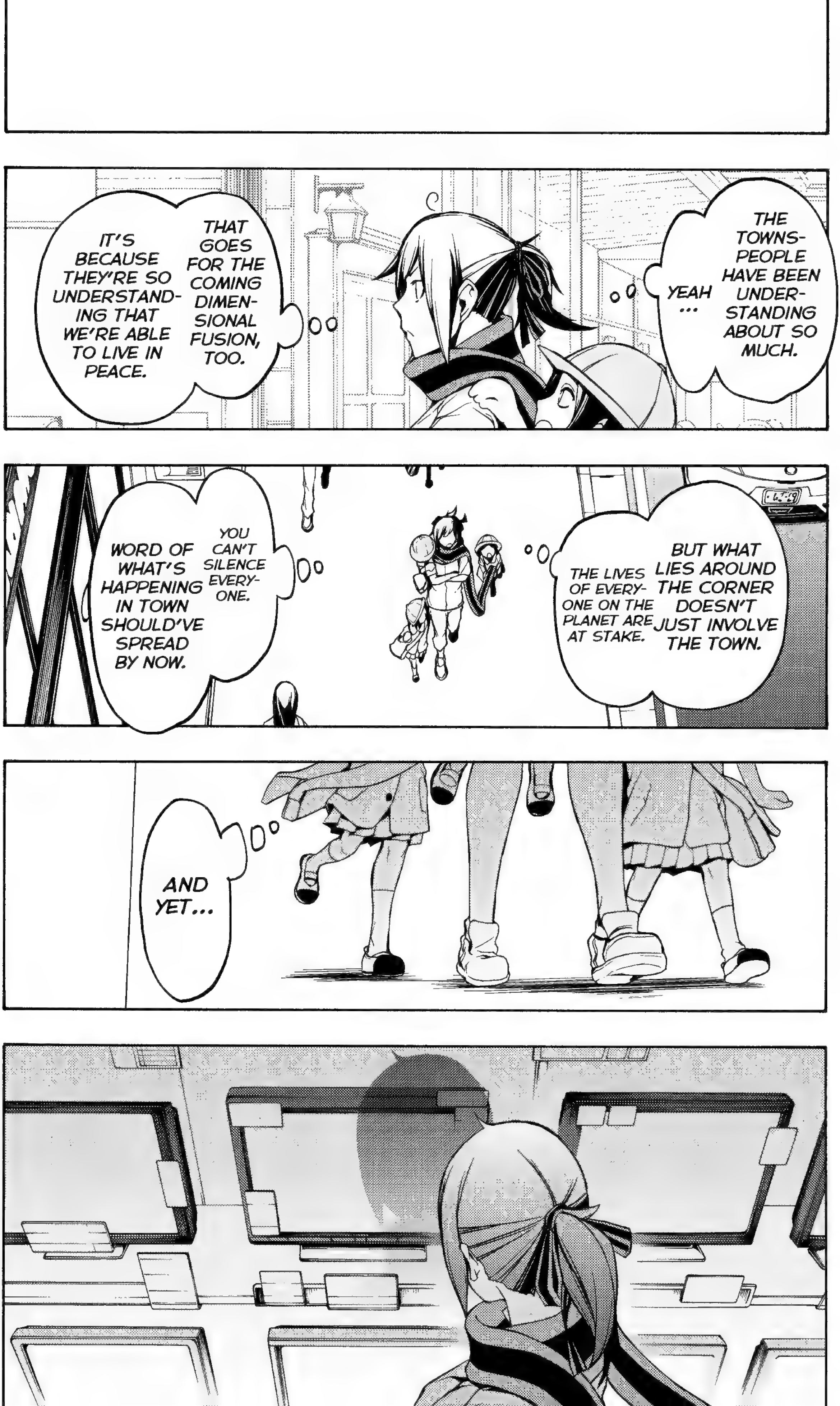
#104 HOUSE OF GODS (PART THREE)

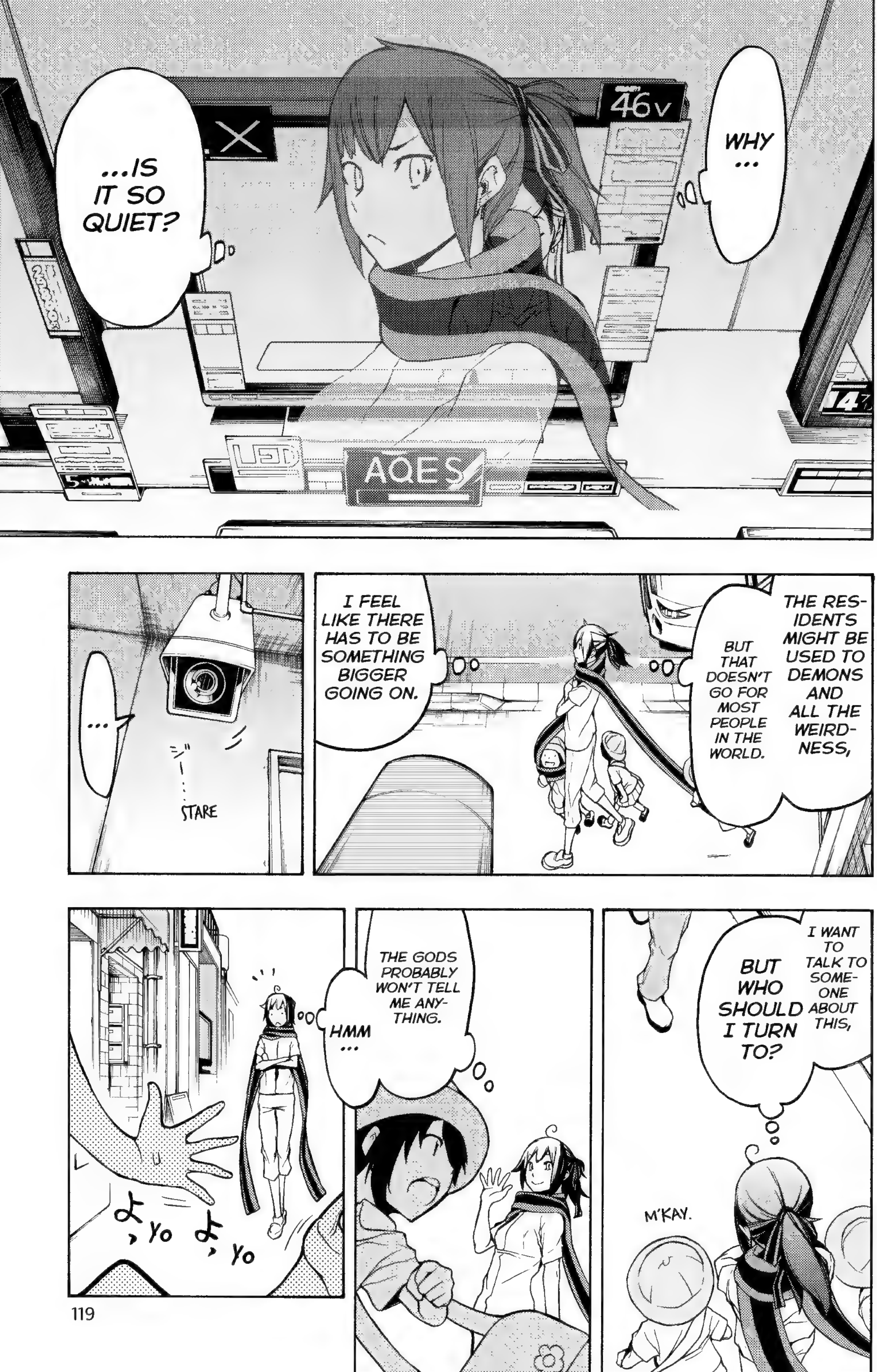

LATER! NICE RUN!
YUP, YUP.
SEE YAAA!

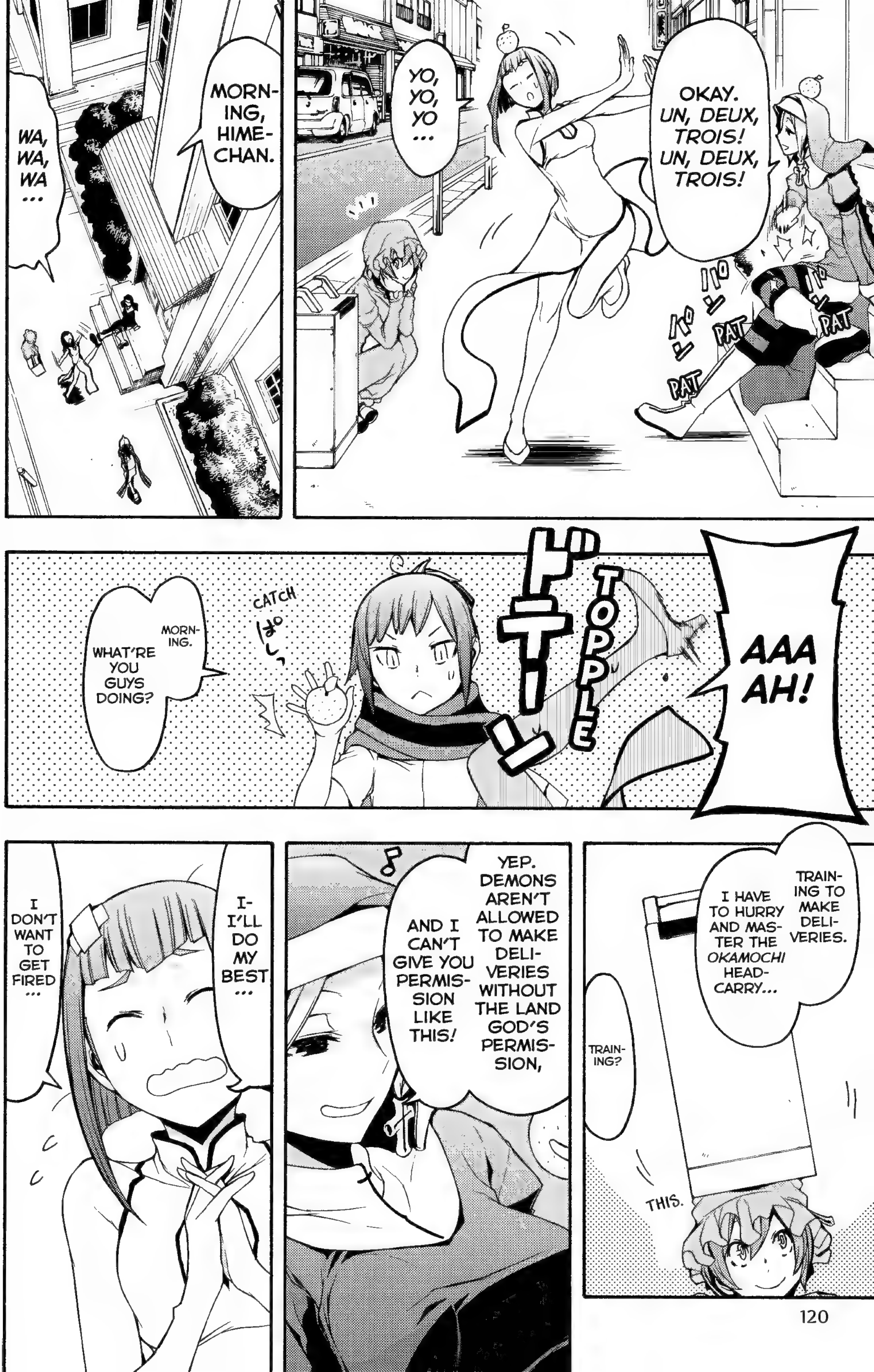

PHEW…
ぱた FLAP
ぱた FLAP
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE ANOTHER SCORCHER…
みーん MEEEE
みん MEE
みん MEE
WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN THE WEATHER BEING ALL OVER THE PLACE.
HEAT-STROKE IS A PROBLEM, THOUGH.
I SHOULD CHECK ON THE ELDERLY PEOPLE WHO ARE LIVING ALONE WHILE I'M ON PATROL.
SOUNDS ROUGH.
UGH…

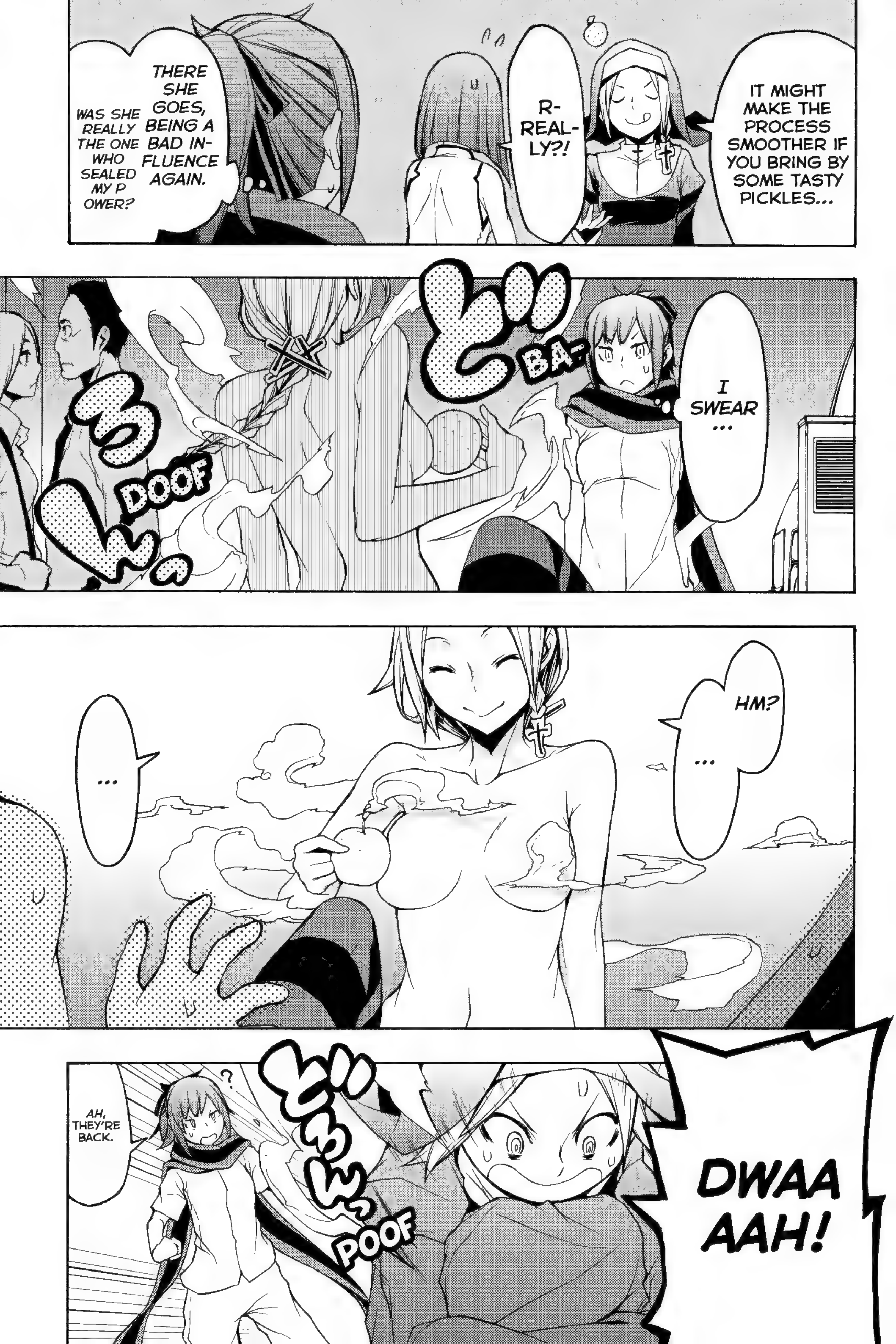

YOU DON'T TRY TO HIDE YOUR SCAR MUCH LATELY, HUH, HIME?
YOU USED TO ALWAYS KEEP IT COVERED.
SWIPE
HM.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I GUESS SO.
MMM. I WOULDN'T SAY I HAD A CHANGE OF HEARD OR ANYTHING.
IT'S JUST THAT THE RESIDENTS ARE SO UNFAZED...
IN THIS TOWN OF DEMONS WHERE ORDINARY IS SUCH A FRAGILE CONCEPT, I WANTED TO KEEP THE EXTRAORDINARY TO A BARE MINIMUM.
I MEAN, A SCAR THAT INHIBITS DRAGON POWER IS PRETTY IRREGULAR, RIGHT?
BUT EVERYONE IN TOWN IS SO STRONG.
THEY'RE STAYING CALM EVEN IN THE FACE OF THE DIMENSIONAL FUSION.
SO, I FIGURED IT'S FINE IF I ACT NORMAL, TOO.
HMM...
THEN I GUESS YOU DON'T NEED THIS SCARF ANYMORE.
LET ME HAVE IT!
するん
SWISH

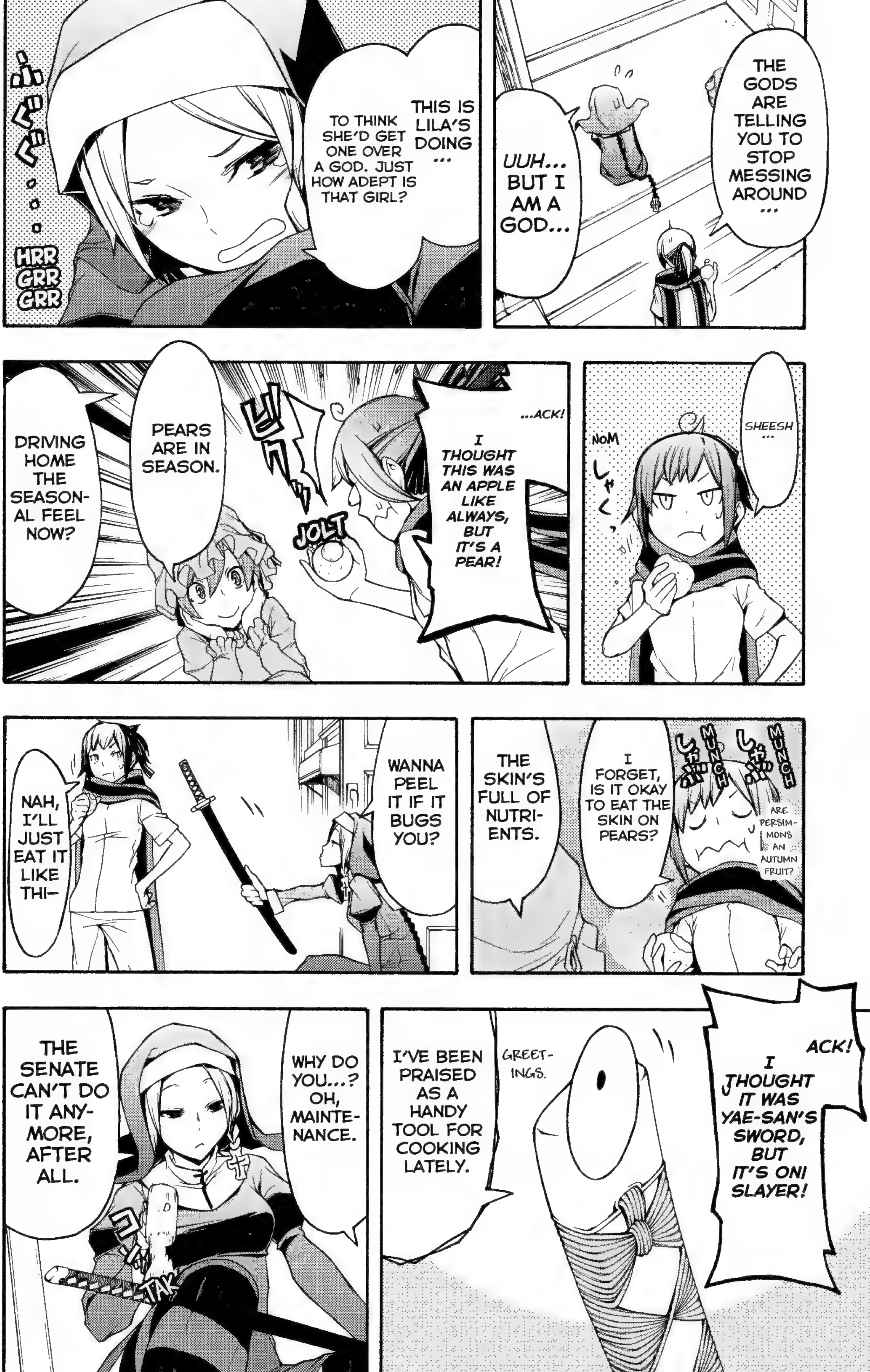

...NO WAY.
IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME.
I BET.
JEEZ. I'M ONLY KIDDING!
DON'T BE UPSET!
QUIT IT.
IT'S TOO HOT
I'M NOT.
SINCE THAT SCAR ON YOUR NECK IS TO SUPPRESS YOUR DRAGON POWER,
WILL YOU GET SUPER POWERFUL IF THE SEAL IS LIFTED?
...
GOOD QUESTION.
I DUNNO.
MAYBE?
TALK ABOUT VAGUE.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW!

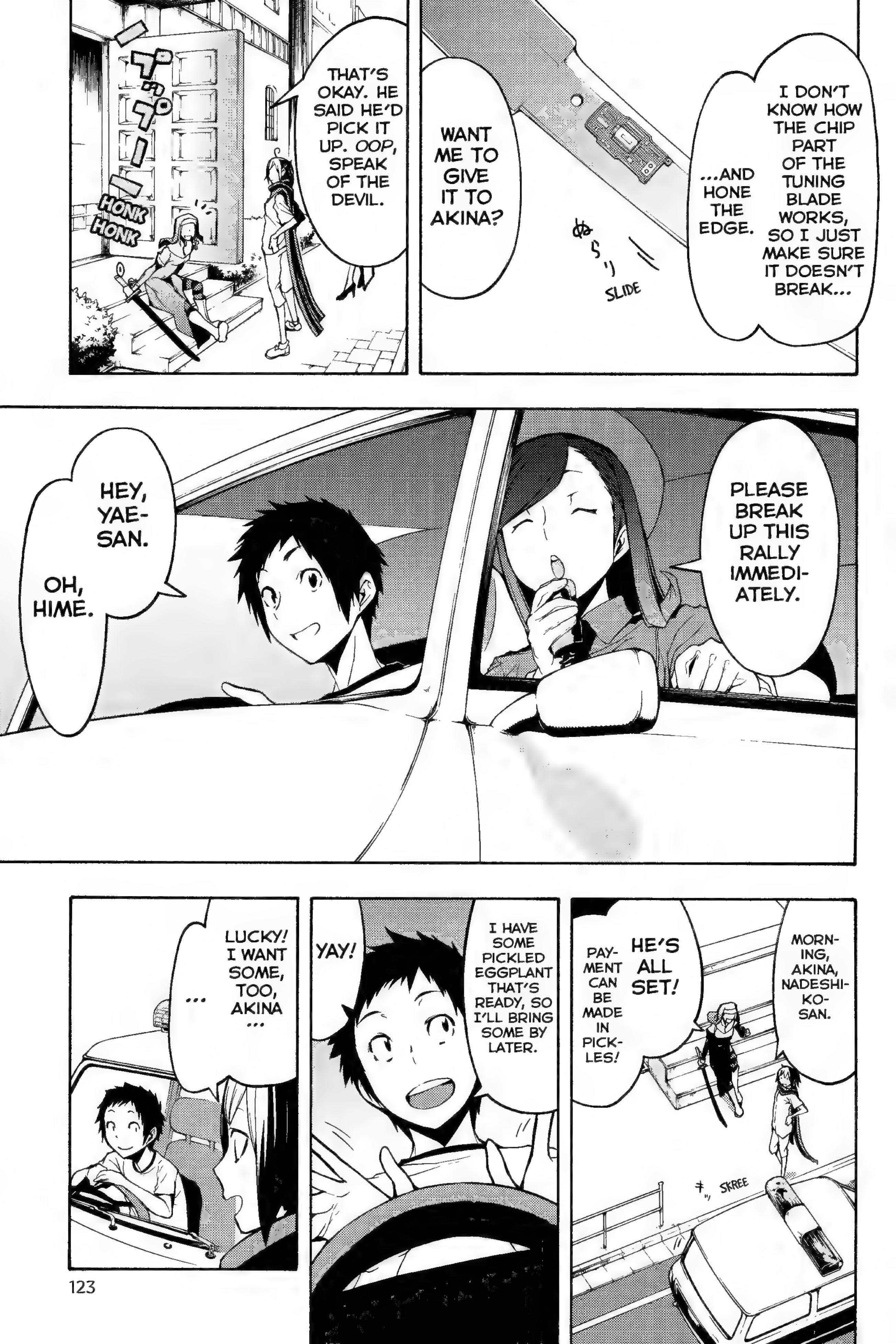

YEAH... THE TOWNSPEOPLE HAVE BEEN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT SO MUCH.
IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE SO UNDERSTANDING THAT WE'RE ABLE TO LIVE IN PEACE. THAT GOES FOR THE COMING DIMENSIONAL FUSION, TOO.
BUT WHAT LIES AROUND THE CORNER DOESN'T JUST INVOLVE THE TOWN. THE LIVES OF EVERYONE ON THE PLANET ARE AT STAKE.
WORD OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TOWN SHOULD'VE SPREAD BY NOW. YOU CAN'T SILENCE EVERYONE.
AND YET...

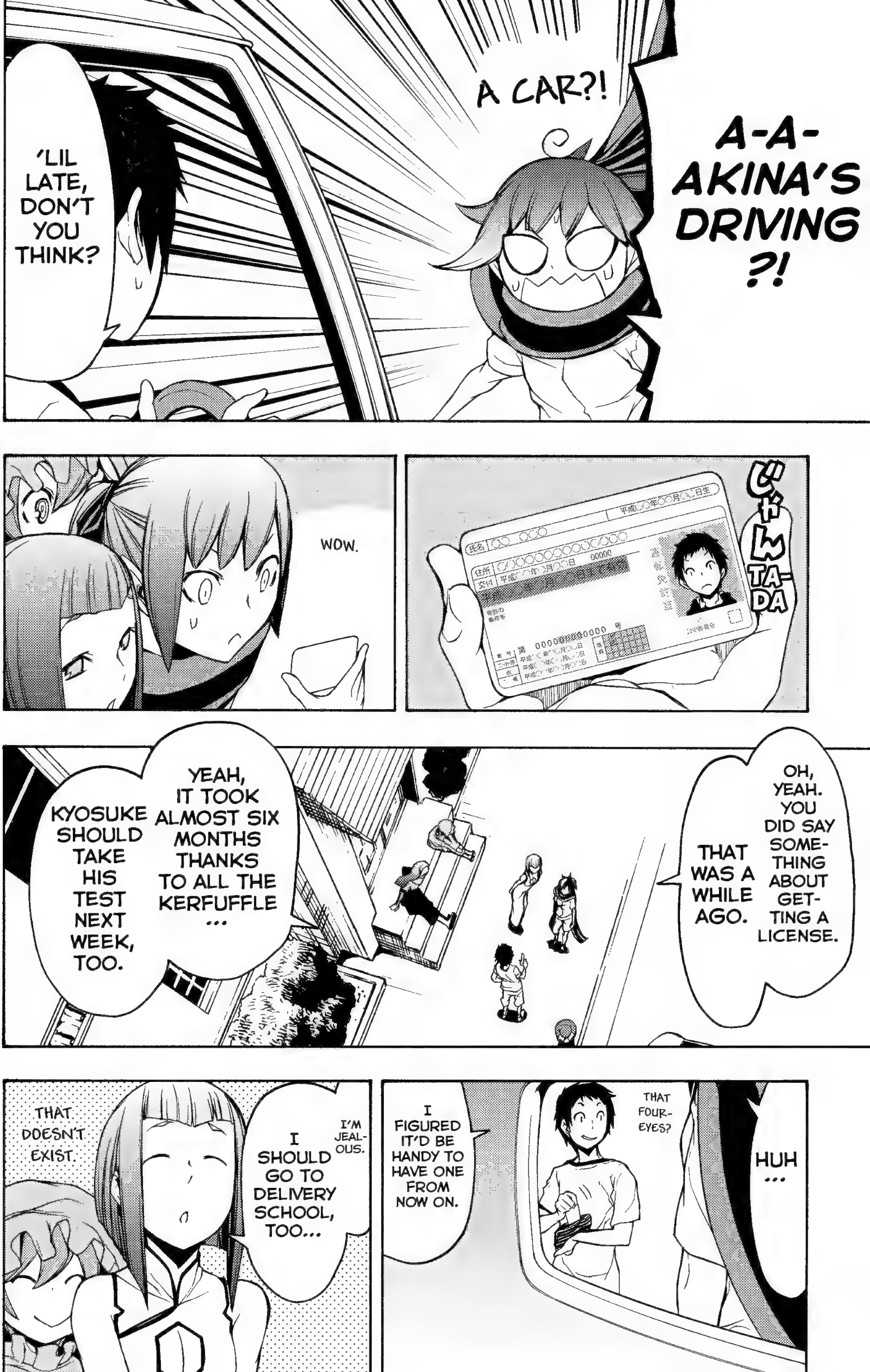

46v
WHY...
...IS IT SO QUIET?
LED
AQES
THE RESIDENTS MIGHT BE USED TO DEMONS AND ALL THE WEIRDNESS,
BUT THAT DOESN'T GO FOR MOST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.
I FEEL LIKE THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING BIGGER GOING ON.
...
ジー
STARE
I WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT THIS,
BUT WHO SHOULD I TURN TO?
M'KAY.
THE GODS PROBABLY WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING.
HMM...
よ, YO
よ, YO

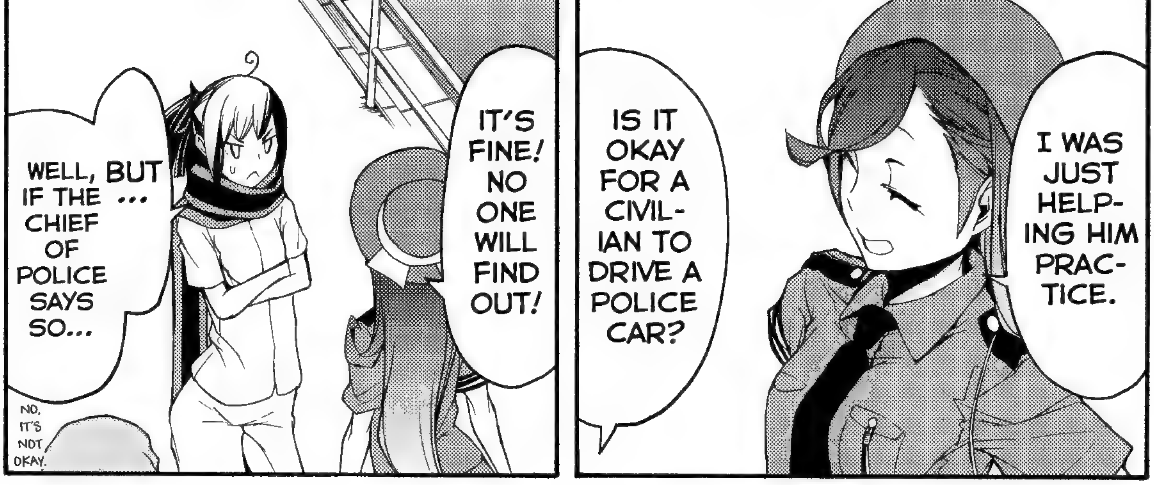

OKAY. UN, DEUX, TROIS! UN, DEUX, TROIS!
パン PAT
パン PAT
YO, YO, YO...
MORNING, HIME-CHAN.
WA, WA, WA...
AAAAH!
ドテーン TOPPLE
CATCH ぱしっ
MORNING. WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?
TRAINING TO MAKE DELIVERIES.
I HAVE TO HURRY AND MASTER THE *OKAMOCHI* HEAD-CARRY...
TRAINING?
THIS.
YEP. DEMONS AREN'T ALLOWED TO MAKE DELIVERIES WITHOUT THE LAND GOD'S PERMISSION,
AND I CAN'T GIVE YOU PERMISSION LIKE THIS!
I-I'LL DO MY BEST...
I DON'T WANT TO GET FIRED...

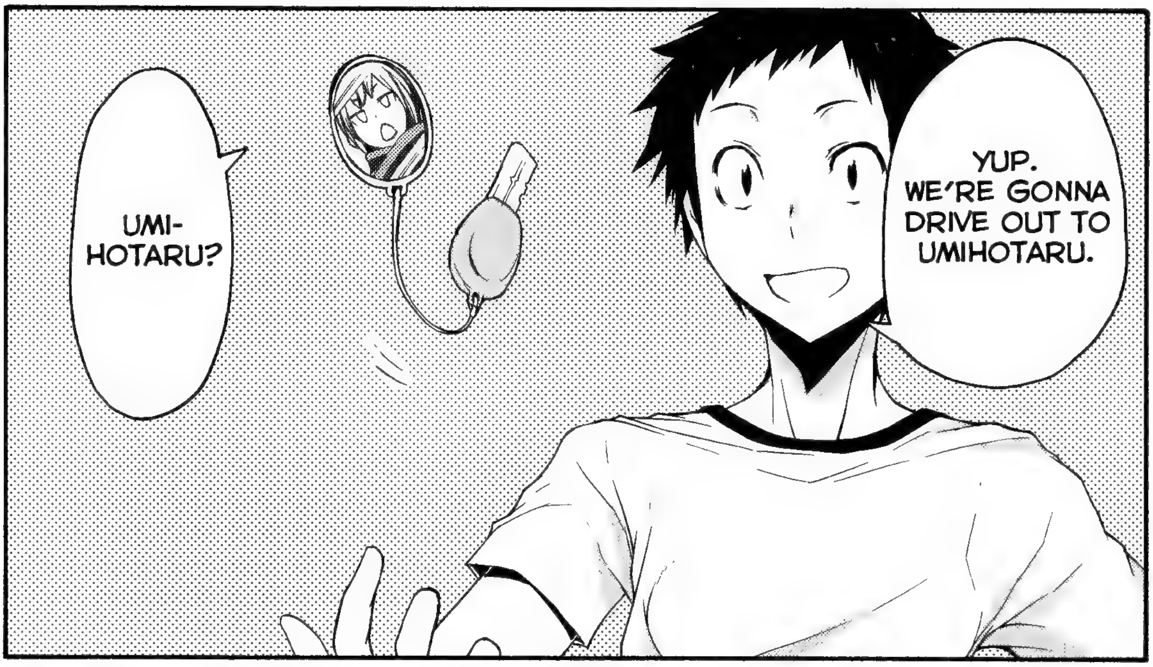

IT MIGHT MAKE THE PROCESS SMOOTHER IF YOU BRING BY SOME TASTY PICKLES...
R-REALLY?!
THERE SHE GOES, BEING A BAD INFLUENCE AGAIN.
WAS SHE REALLY THE ONE WHO SEALED MY POWER?
I SWEAR...
BA-
DOOF
HM? ...
...
DWAAAAH!
POOF
AH, THEY'RE BACK.


THE GODS ARE TELLING YOU TO STOP MESSING AROUND...
UUH... BUT I AM A GOD...
THIS IS LILA'S DOING...
TO THINK SHE'D GET ONE OVER A GOD. JUST HOW ADEPT IS THAT GIRL?
ぐぐぐ…
HRR GRR GRR
SHEESH...
NOM
しゃく
...ACK!
I THOUGHT THIS WAS AN APPLE LIKE ALWAYS, BUT IT'S A PEAR!
ビクッ
JOLT
PEARS ARE IN SEASON.
DRIVING HOME THE SEASONAL FEEL NOW?
しゃく MUNCH
しゃく MUNCH
ARE PERSIMMONS AN AUTUMN FRUIT?
I FORGET, IS IT OKAY TO EAT THE SKIN ON PEARS?
THE SKIN'S FULL OF NUTRIENTS.
WANNA PEEL IT IF IT BUGS YOU?
NAH, I'LL JUST EAT IT LIKE THI-
ACK! I THOUGHT IT WAS YAE-SAN'S SWORD, BUT IT'S ONI SLAYER!
GREETINGS.
I'VE BEEN PRAISED AS A HANDY TOOL FOR COOKING LATELY.
WHY DO YOU...? OH, MAINTENANCE.
THE SENATE CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE, AFTER ALL.
コト
TAK

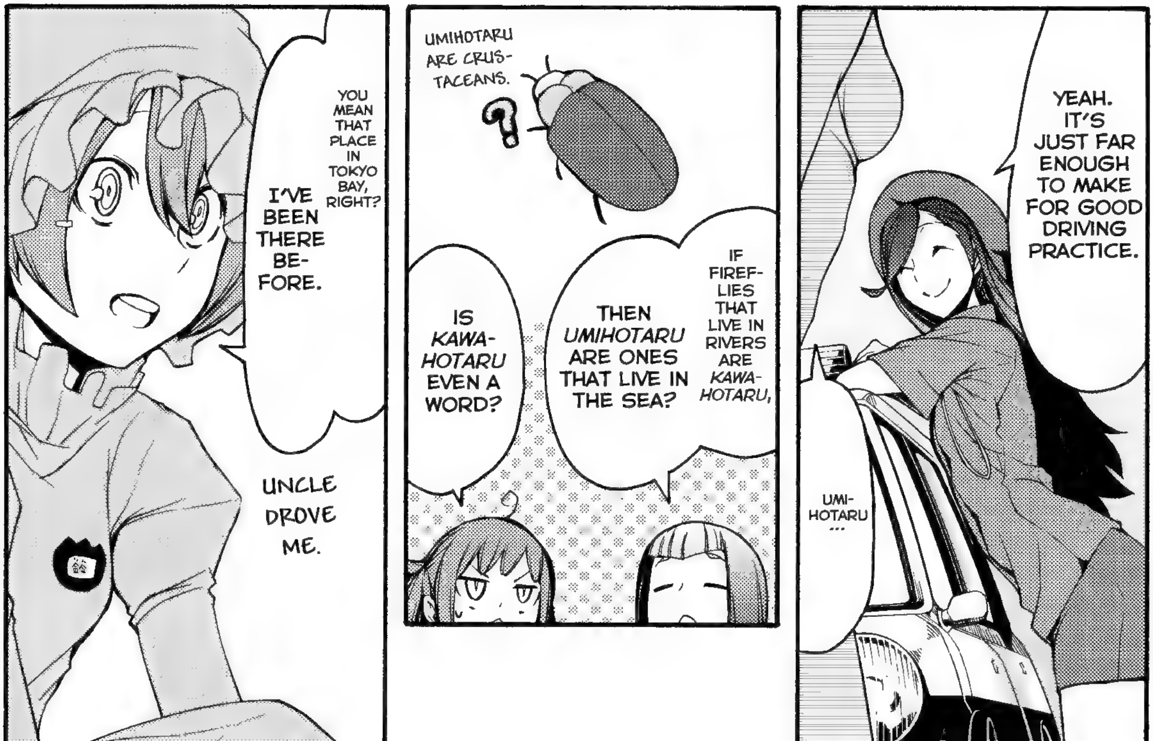

I DON'T KNOW HOW THE CHIP PART OF THE TUNING BLADE WORKS, SO I JUST MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T BREAK...
...AND HONE THE EDGE.
ぬらり
SLIDE
WANT ME TO GIVE IT TO AKINA?
THAT'S OKAY. HE SAID HE'D PICK IT UP. *OOP*, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
プップーー
HONK HONK
PLEASE BREAK UP THIS RALLY IMMEDIATELY.
HEY, YAE-SAN.
OH, HIME.
MORNING, AKINA, NADESHIKO-SAN.
HE'S ALL SET!
PAYMENT CAN BE MADE IN PICKLES!
キッ
SKREE
I HAVE SOME PICKLED EGGPLANT THAT'S READY, SO I'LL BRING SOME BY LATER.
YAY!
LUCKY! I WANT SOME, TOO, AKINA...
...

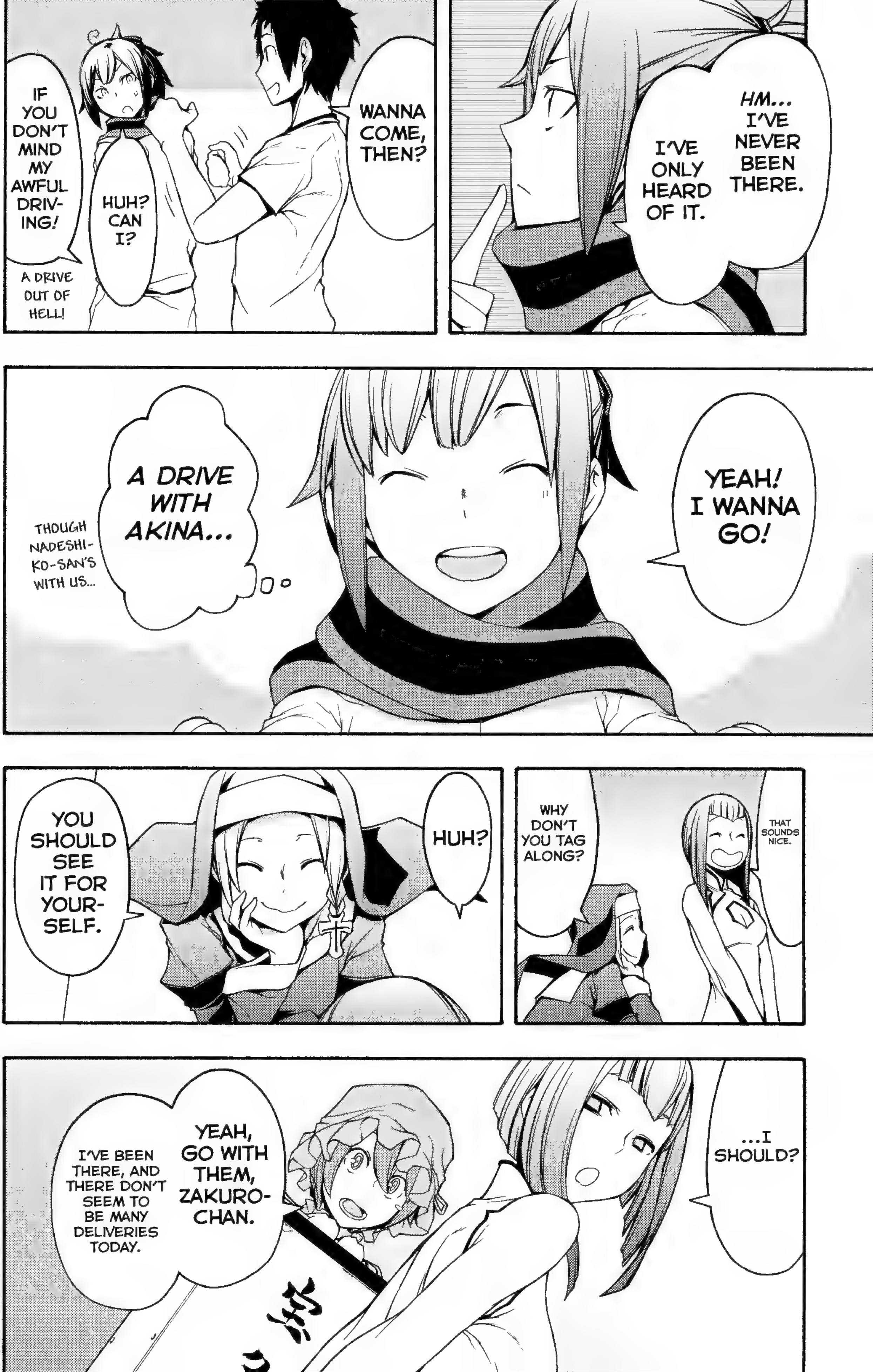

A-A-AKINA'S DRIVING?!
A CAR?!
'LIL LATE, DON'T YOU THINK?
じゃん TA-DA
WOW.
OH, YEAH. YOU DID SAY SOMETHING ABOUT GETTING A LICENSE.
THAT WAS A WHILE AGO.
YEAH, IT TOOK ALMOST SIX MONTHS THANKS TO ALL THE KERFUFFLE...
KYOSUKE SHOULD TAKE HIS TEST NEXT WEEK, TOO.
HUH...
THAT FOUR-EYES?
I FIGURED IT'D BE HANDY TO HAVE ONE FROM NOW ON.
I'M JEALOUS.
I SHOULD GO TO DELIVERY SCHOOL, TOO...
THAT DOESN'T EXIST.

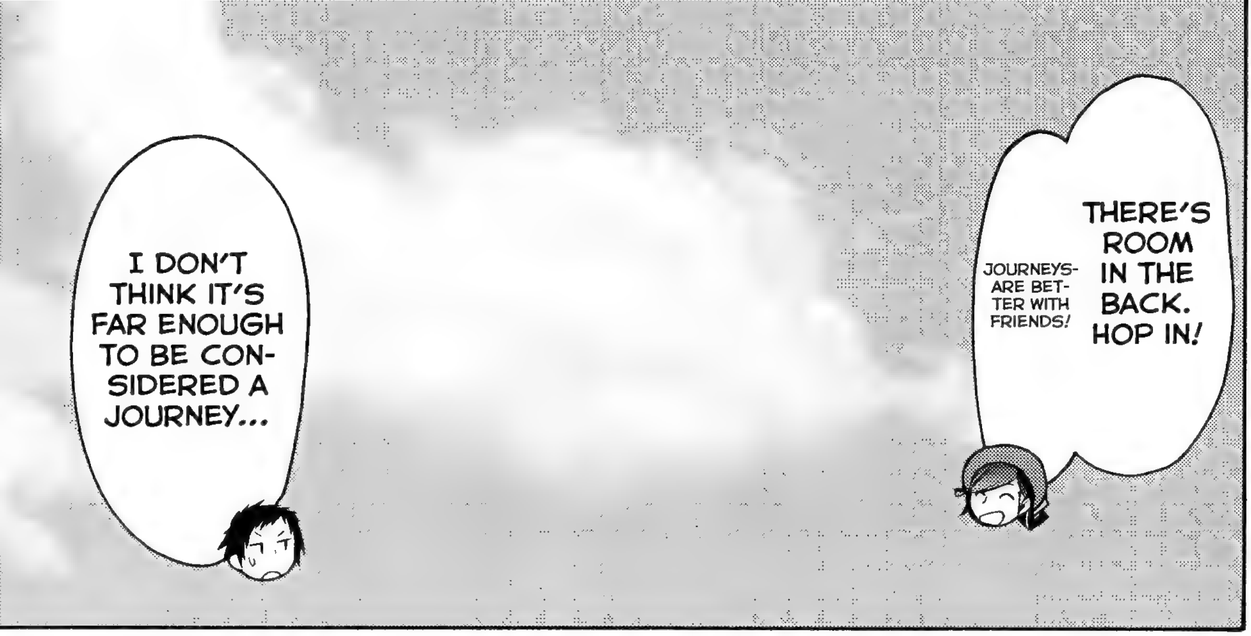

I WAS JUST HELPING HIM PRACTICE.
IS IT OKAY FOR A CIVILIAN TO DRIVE A POLICE CAR?
IT'S FINE! NO ONE WILL FIND OUT!
WELL, BUT IF THE CHIEF OF POLICE SAYS SO...
NO, IT'S NOT OKAY.

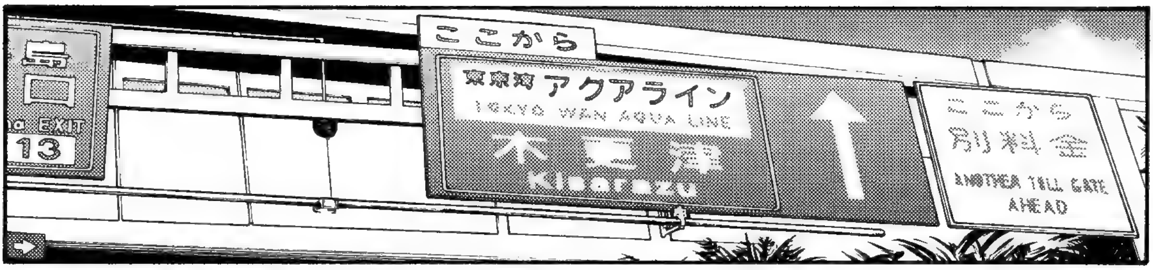

YUP. WE'RE GONNA DRIVE OUT TO UMIHOTARU.
UMIHOTARU?

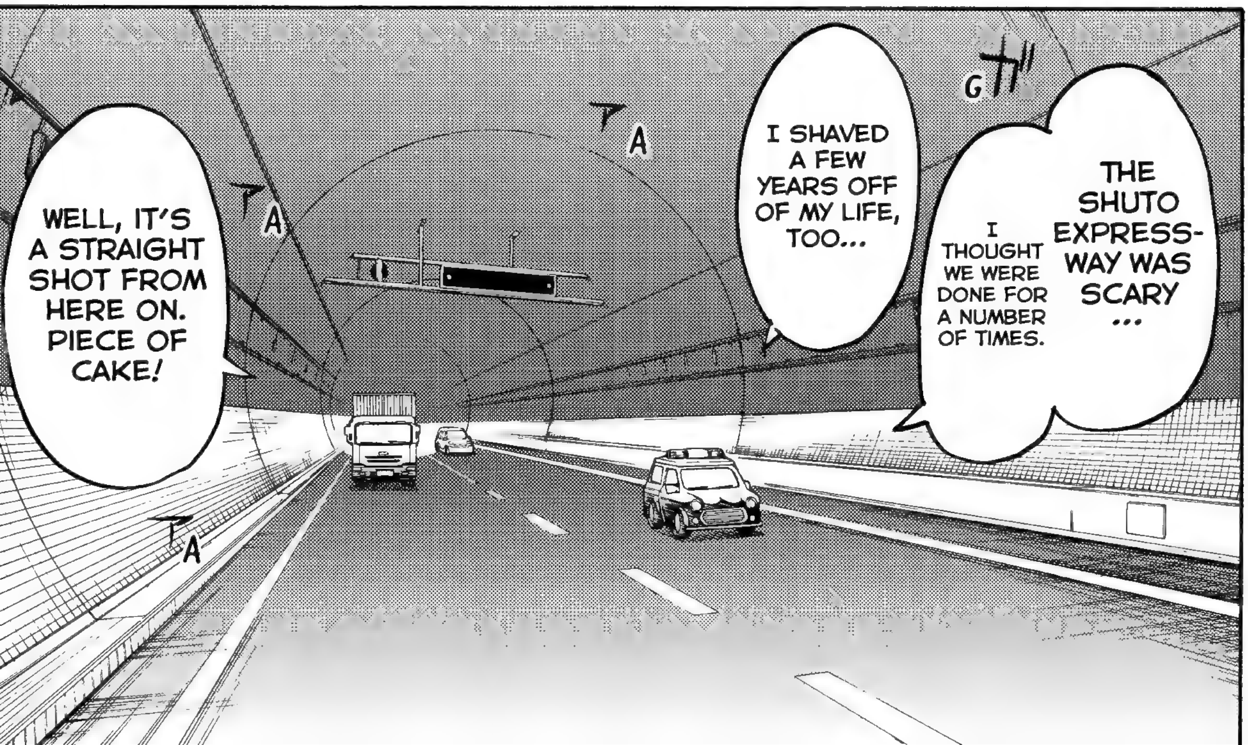
Tag: Rin

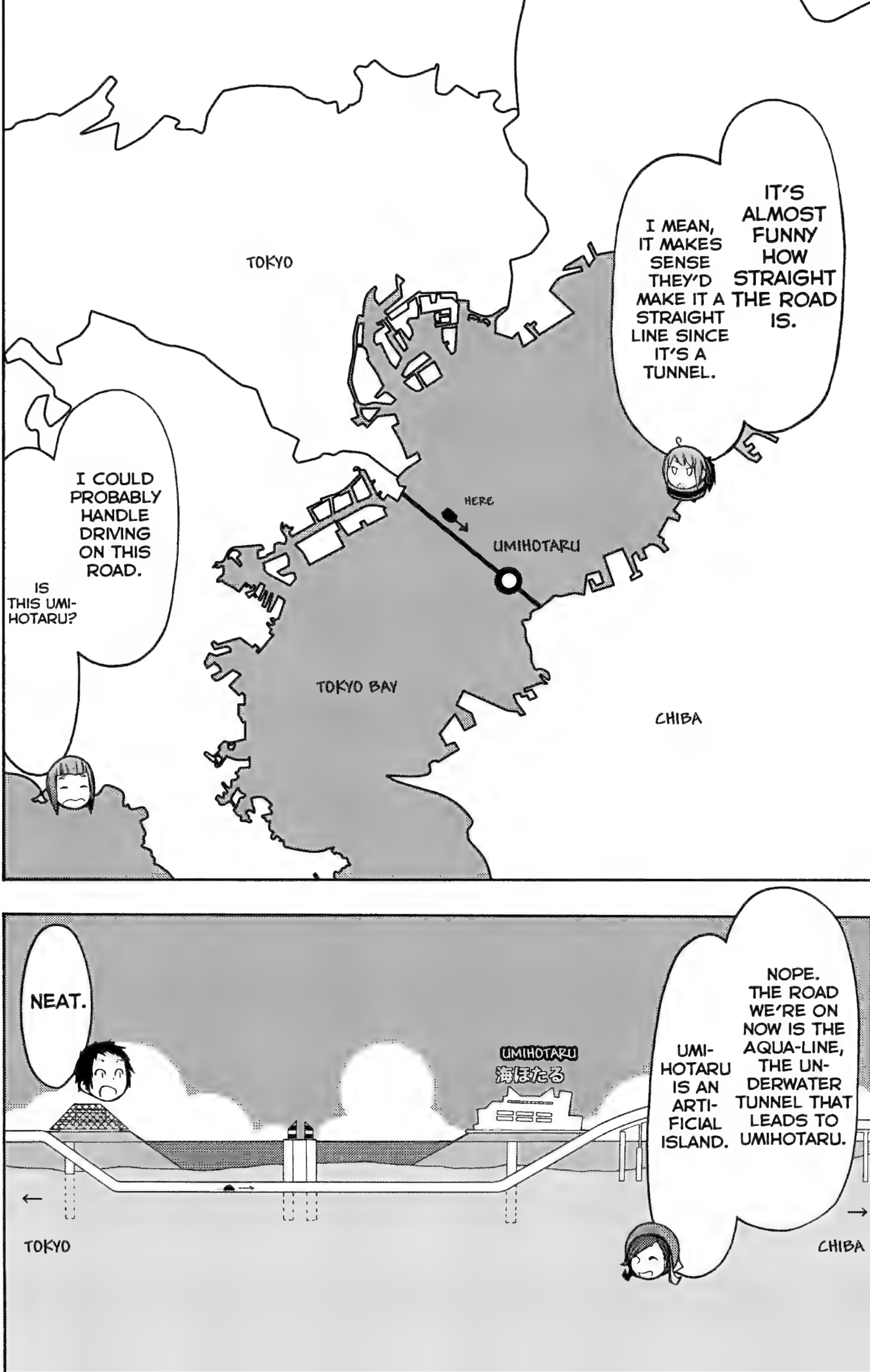

YEAH. IT'S JUST FAR ENOUGH TO MAKE FOR GOOD DRIVING PRACTICE.
UMIHOTARU...
IF FIREFLIES LIVE IN RIVERS ARE *KAWAHOTARU*,
THEN *UMIHOTARU* ARE ONES THAT LIVE IN THE SEA?
IS *KAWAHOTARU* EVEN A WORD?
UMIHOTARU ARE CRUSTACEANS.
?
YOU MEAN THAT PLACE IN TOKYO BAY, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE.
UNCLE DROVE ME.

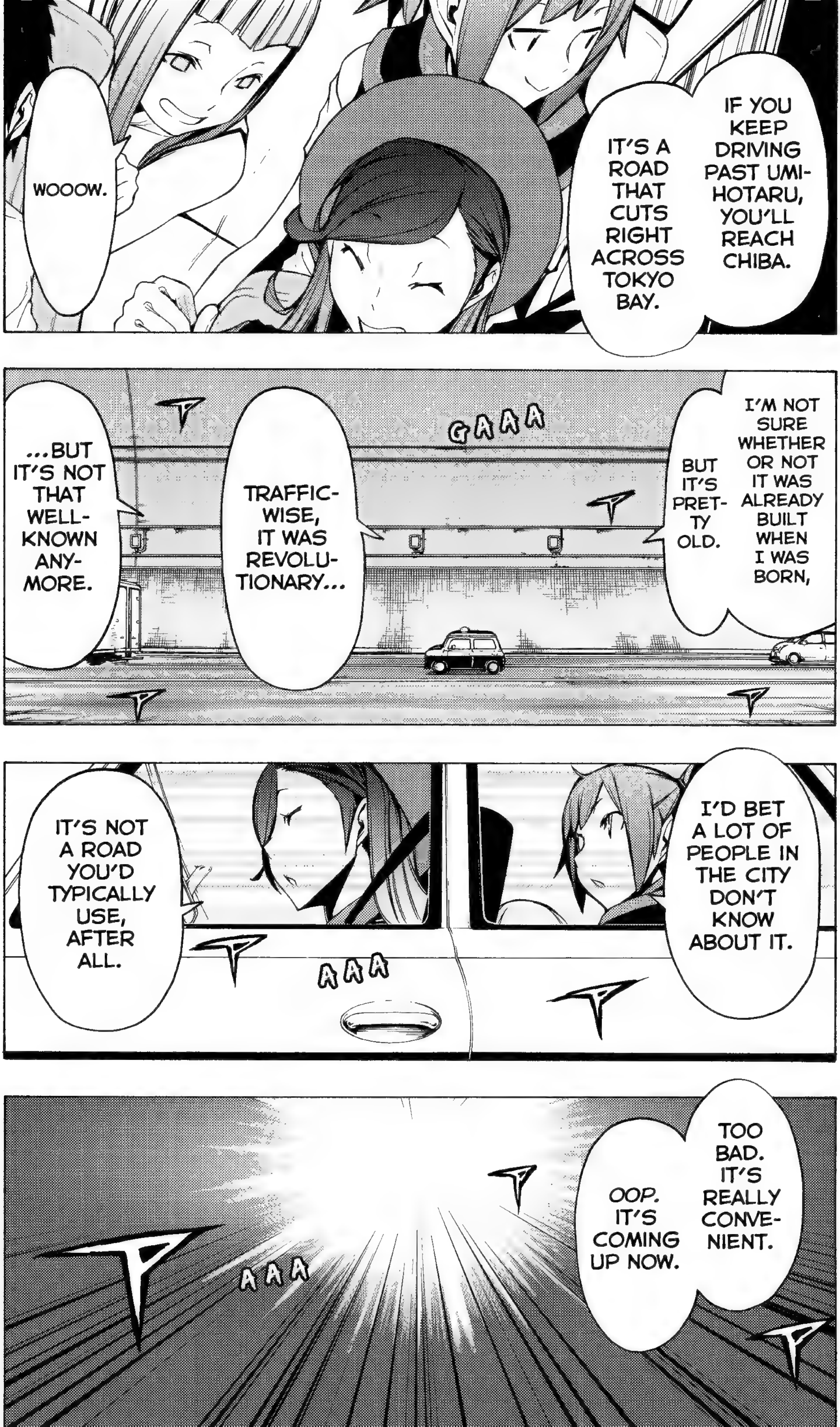

HM... I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE.
I'VE ONLY HEARD OF IT.
WANNA COME, THEN?
HUH? CAN I?
IF YOU DON'T MIND MY AWFUL DRIVING!
A DRIVE OUT OF HELL!
YEAH! I WANNA GO!
A DRIVE WITH AKINA...
THOUGH NADESHIKO-SAN'S WITH US...
THAT SOUNDS NICE.
WHY DON'T YOU TAG ALONG?
HUH?
YOU SHOULD SEE IT FOR YOURSELF.
...I SHOULD?
YEAH, GO WITH THEM, ZAKURO-CHAN.
I'VE BEEN THERE, AND THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE MANY DELIVERIES TODAY.

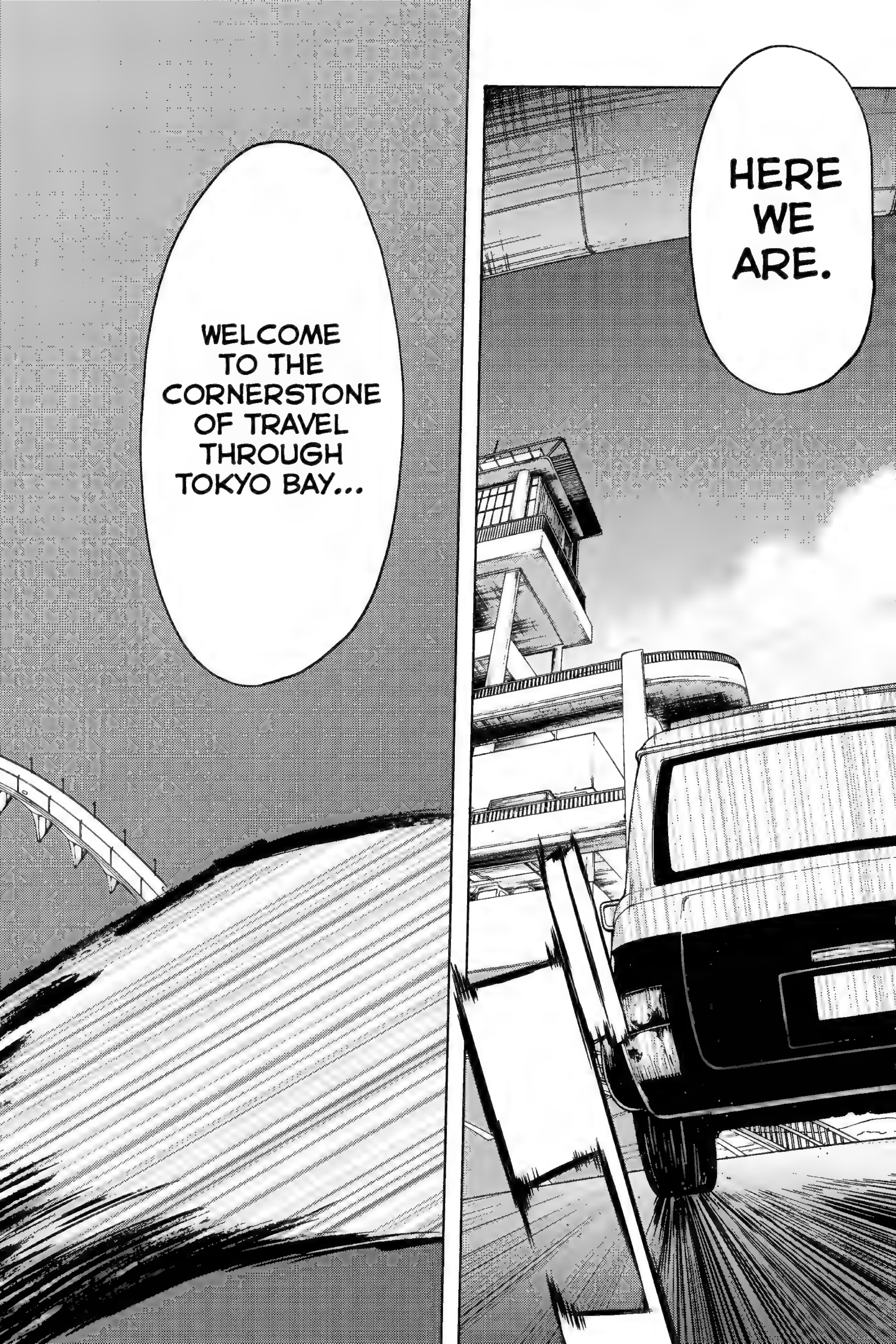

THERE'S ROOM IN THE BACK. HOP IN!
JOURNEYS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!
I DON'T THINK IT'S FAR ENOUGH TO BE CONSIDERED A JOURNEY...

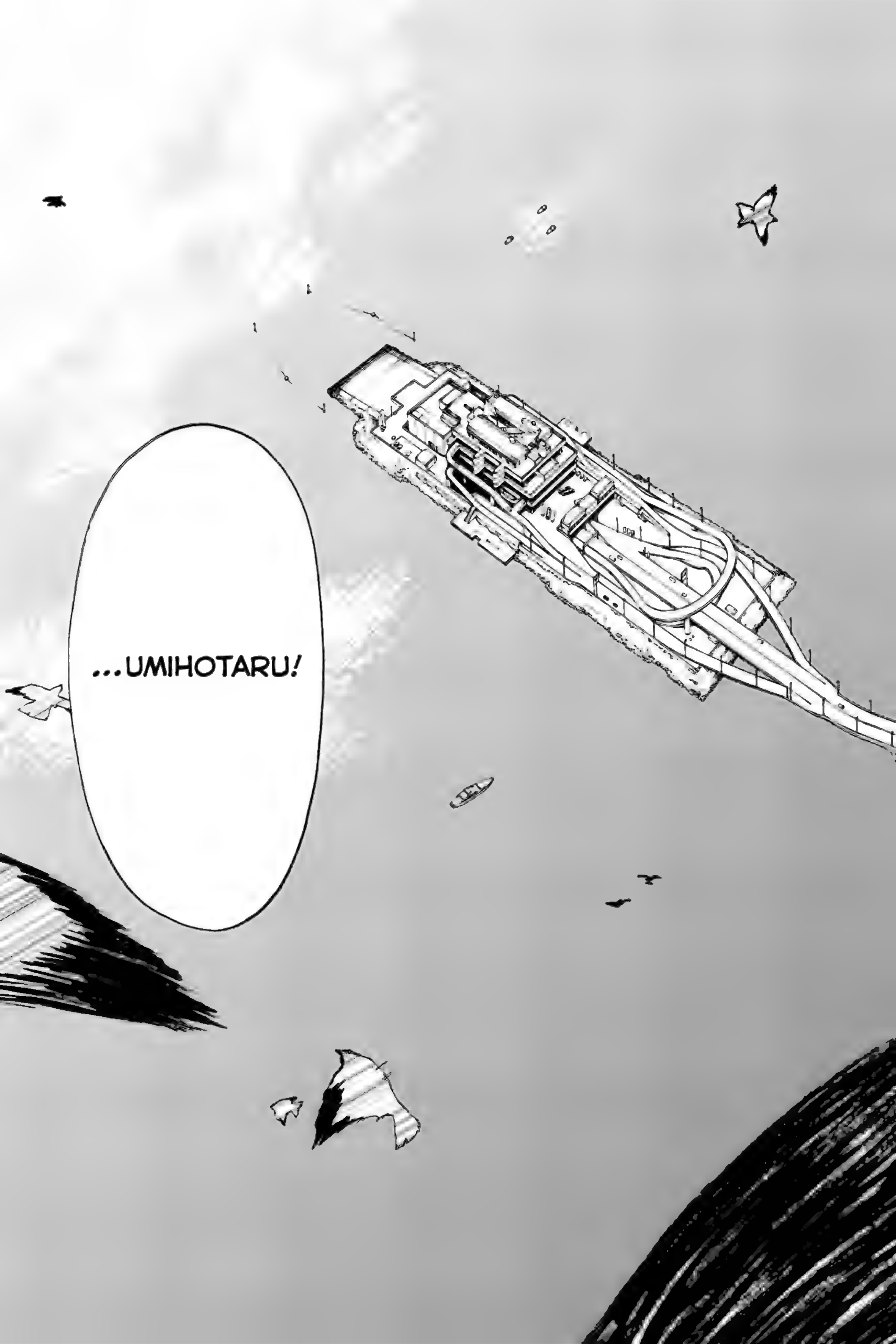

ここから
東京湾アクアライン
TOKYO WAN AQUA LINE
木更津
Kisarazu
ここから別料金
ANOTHER TOLL GATE AHEAD
EXIT
13

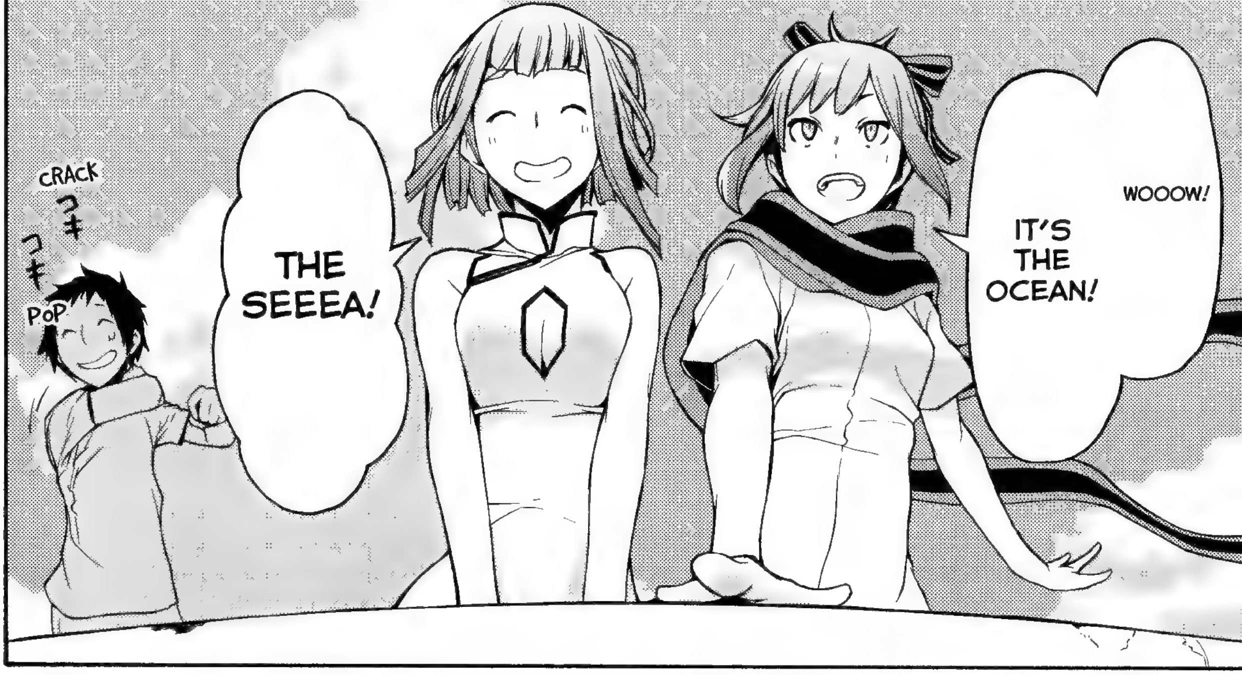

GA
THE SHUTO EXPRESSWAY WAS SCARY...
I THOUGHT WE WERE DONE FOR A NUMBER OF TIMES.
I SHAVED A FEW YEARS OFF OF MY LIFE, TOO...
A
A
WELL, IT'S A STRAIGHT SHOT FROM HERE ON. PIECE OF CAKE!
A

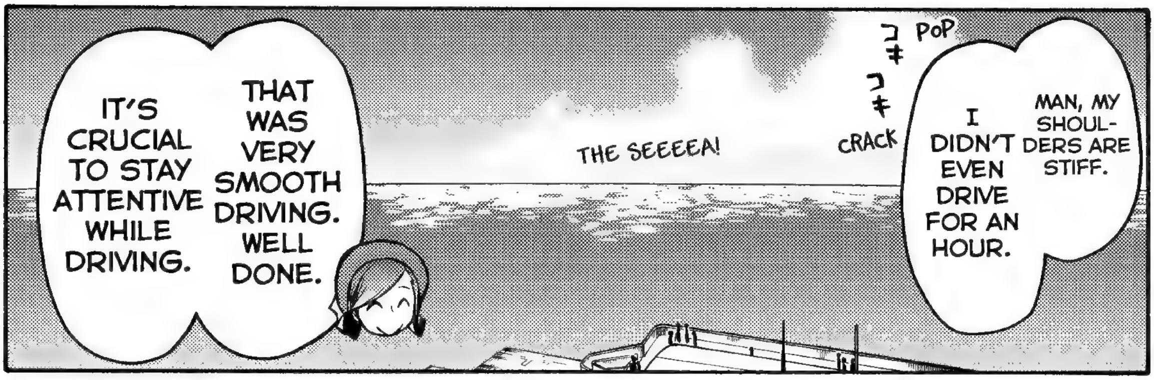

IT'S ALMOST FUNNY HOW STRAIGHT THE ROAD IS.
I MEAN, IT MAKES SENSE THEY'D MAKE IT A STRAIGHT LINE SINCE IT'S A TUNNEL.
TOKYO
HERE
UMIHOTARU
TOKYO BAY
CHIBA
I COULD PROBABLY HANDLE DRIVING ON THIS ROAD.
IS THIS UMIHOTARU?
NOPE. THE ROAD WE'RE ON NOW IS THE AQUA-LINE, THE UNDERWATER TUNNEL THAT LEADS TO UMIHOTARU.
UMIHOTARU IS AN ARTIFICIAL ISLAND.
UMIHOTARU
海ほたる
NEAT.
TOKYO
CHIBA

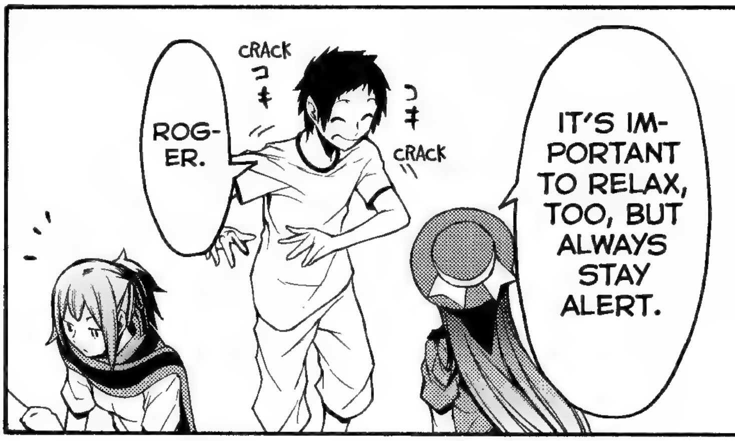

IF YOU KEEP DRIVING PAST UMIHOTARU, YOU'LL REACH CHIBA.
IT'S A ROAD THAT CUTS RIGHT ACROSS TOKYO BAY.
WOOOW.
I'M NOT SURE WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS ALREADY BUILT WHEN I WAS BORN,
BUT IT'S PRETTY OLD.
GAAA
TRAFFIC-WISE, IT WAS REVOLUTIONARY...
...BUT IT'S NOT THAT WELL-KNOWN ANYMORE.
I'D BET A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE CITY DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT.
AAA
IT'S NOT A ROAD YOU'D TYPICALLY USE, AFTER ALL.
TOO BAD. IT'S REALLY CONVENIENT.
OOP. IT'S COMING UP NOW.
AAA

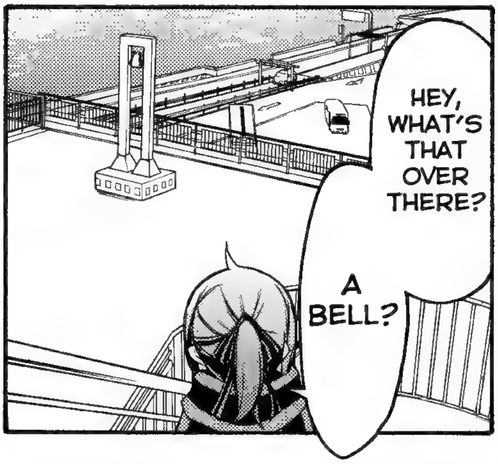

HERE WE ARE.
WELCOME TO THE CORNERSTONE OF TRAVEL THROUGH TOKYO BAY...

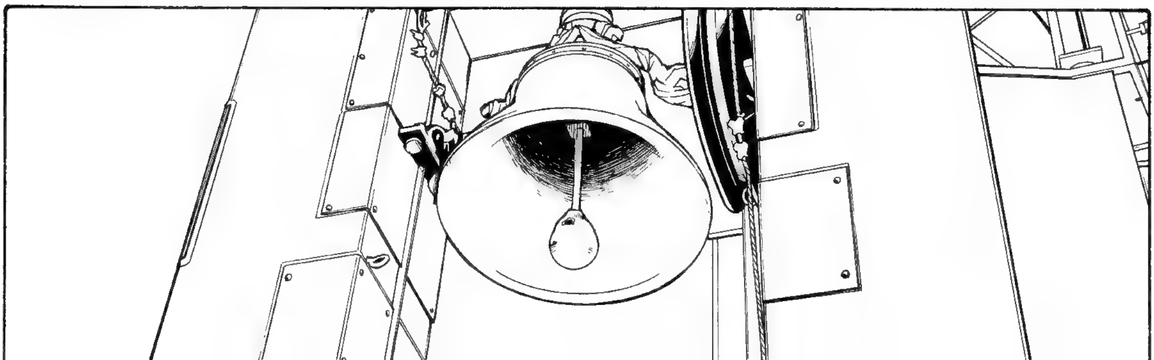

...UMIHOTARU!

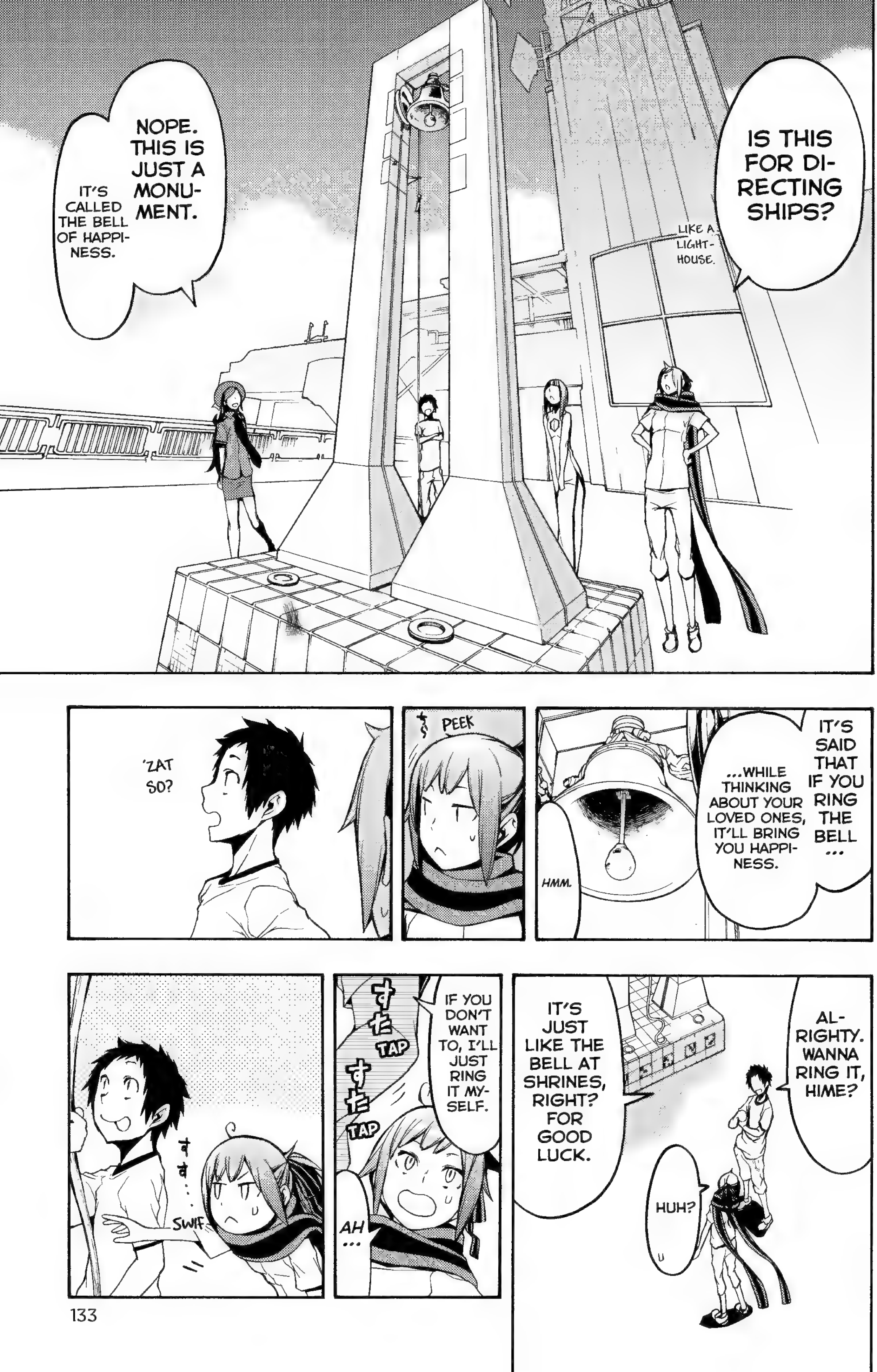

WOOOW!
IT'S THE OCEAN!
THE SEEEA!
CRACK コキ
コキ POP

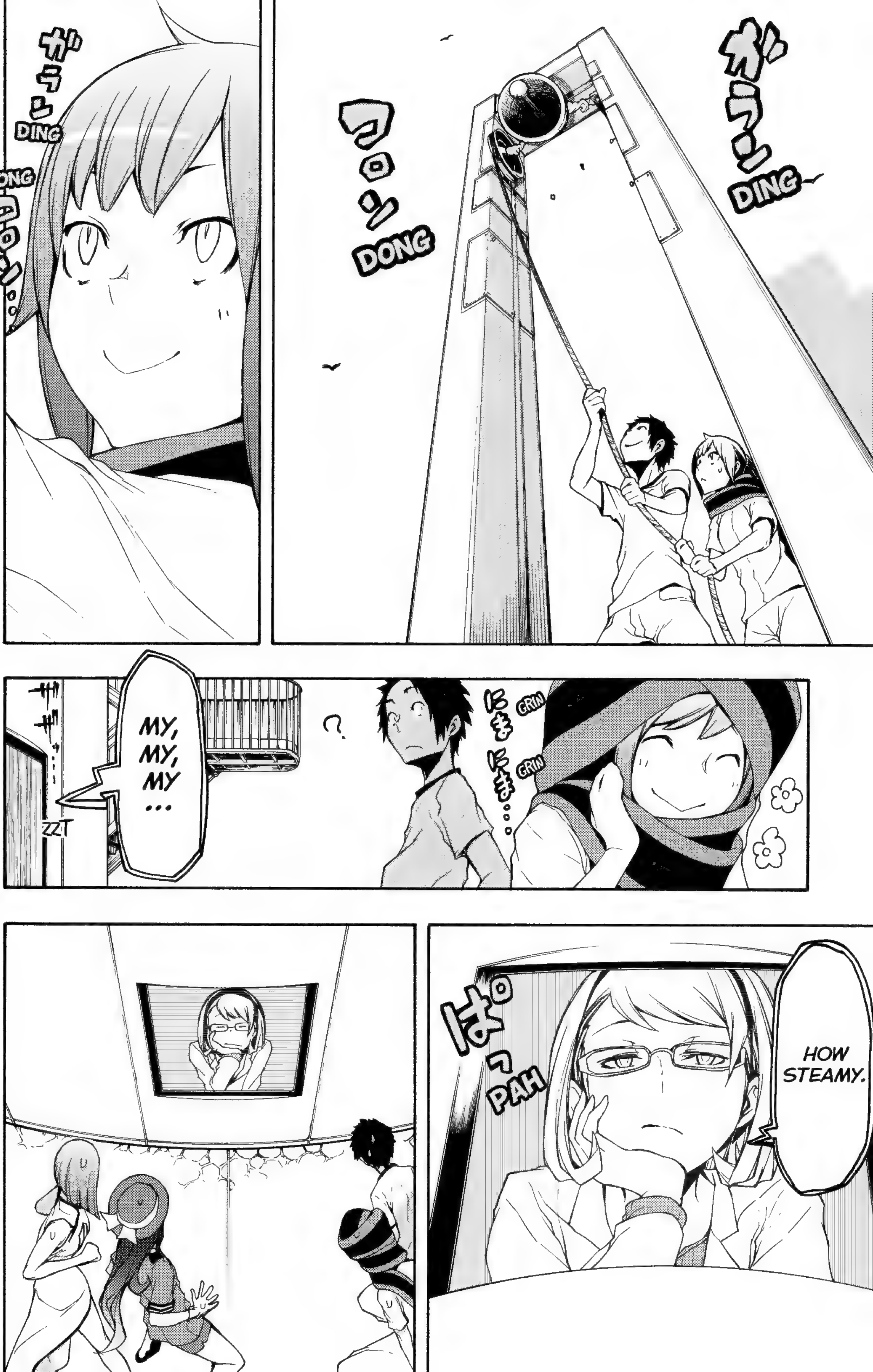

MAN, MY SHOULDERS ARE STIFF.
I DIDN'T EVEN DRIVE FOR AN HOUR.
コキ POP
コキ CRACK
THE SEEEA!
THAT WAS VERY SMOOTH DRIVING. WELL DONE.
IT'S CRUCIAL TO STAY ATTENTIVE WHILE DRIVING.

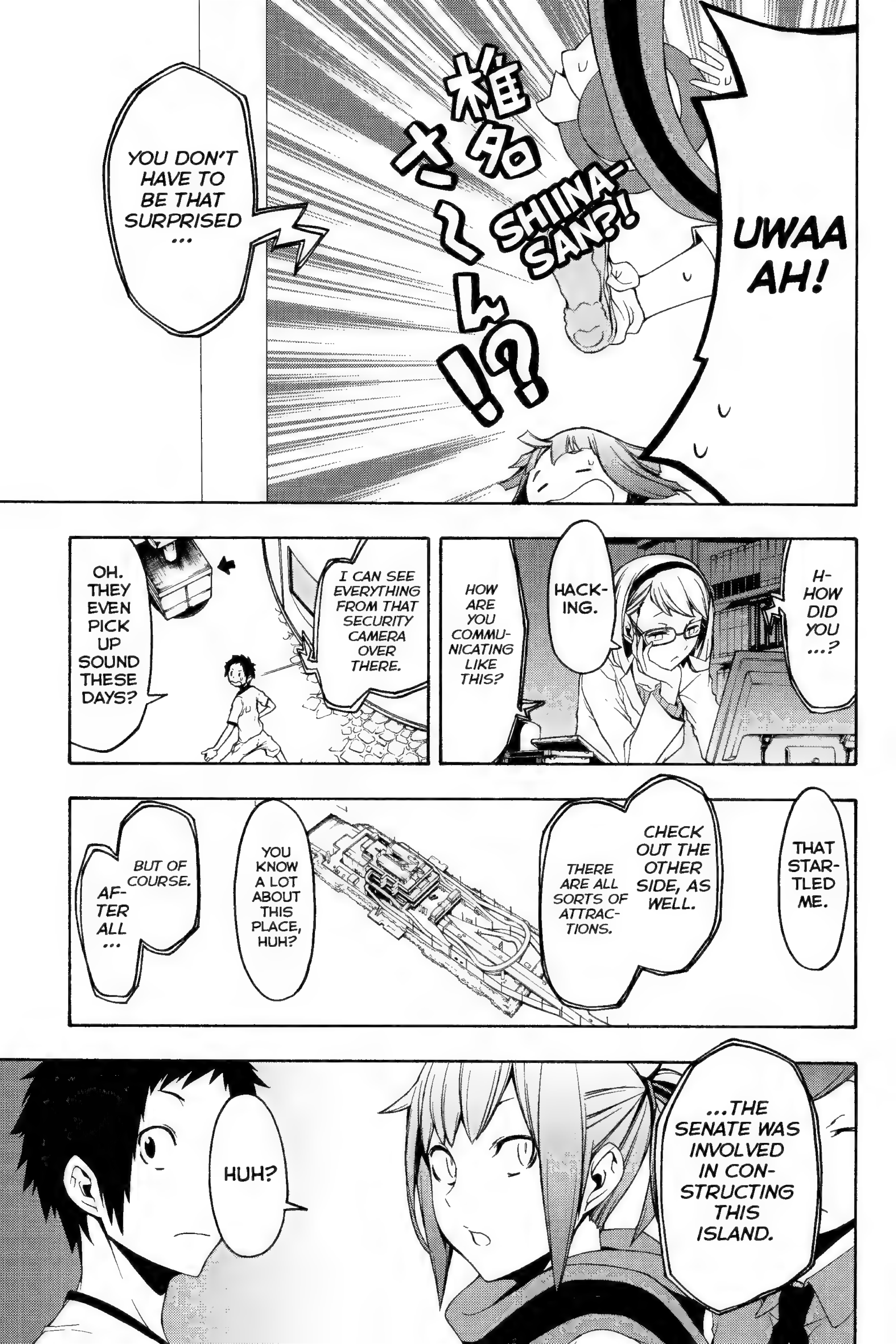

IT'S IMPORTANT TO RELAX, TOO, BUT ALWAYS STAY ALERT.
コキ CRACK
CRACK コキ
ROGER.

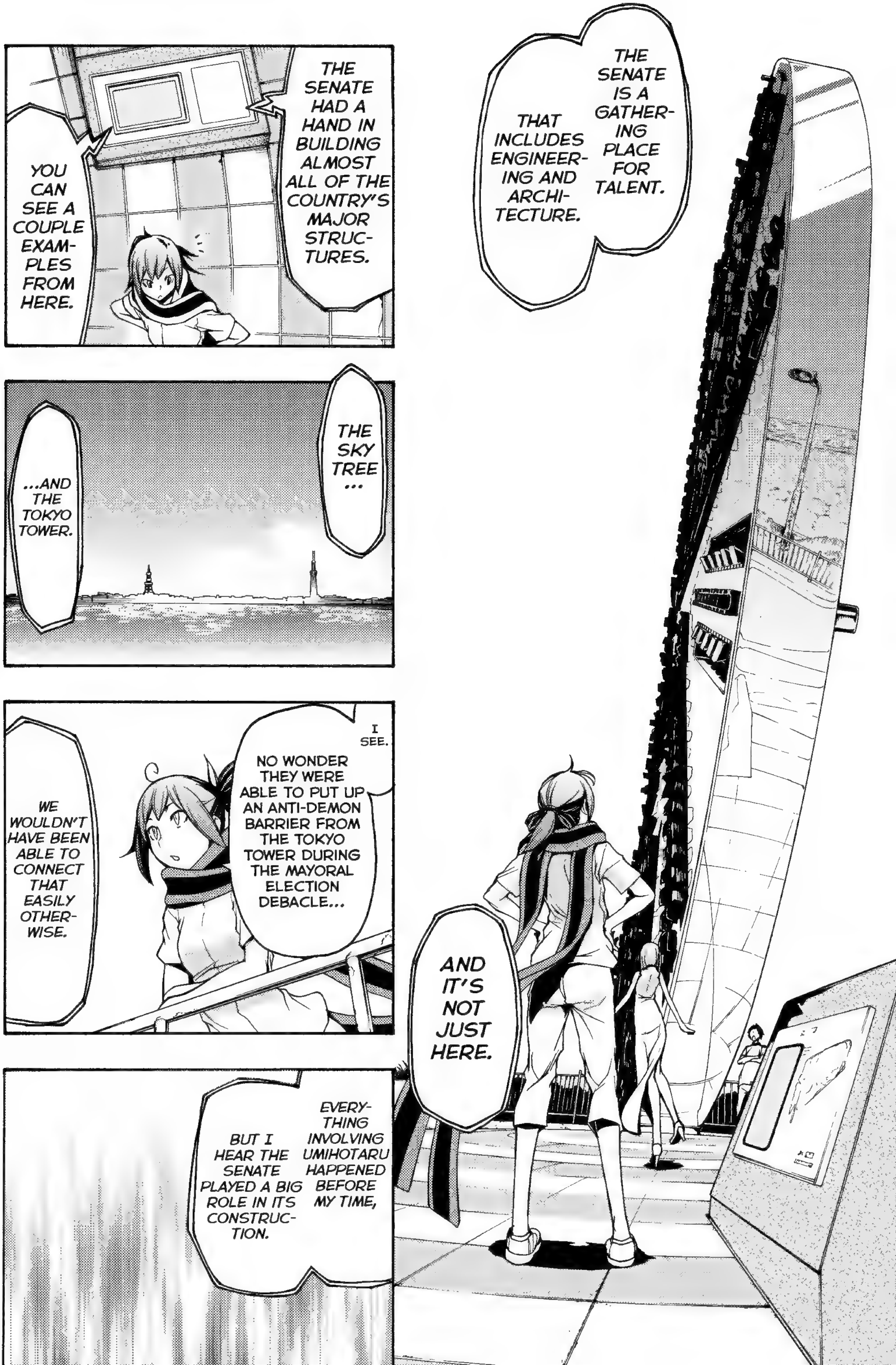

HEY, WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?
A BELL?

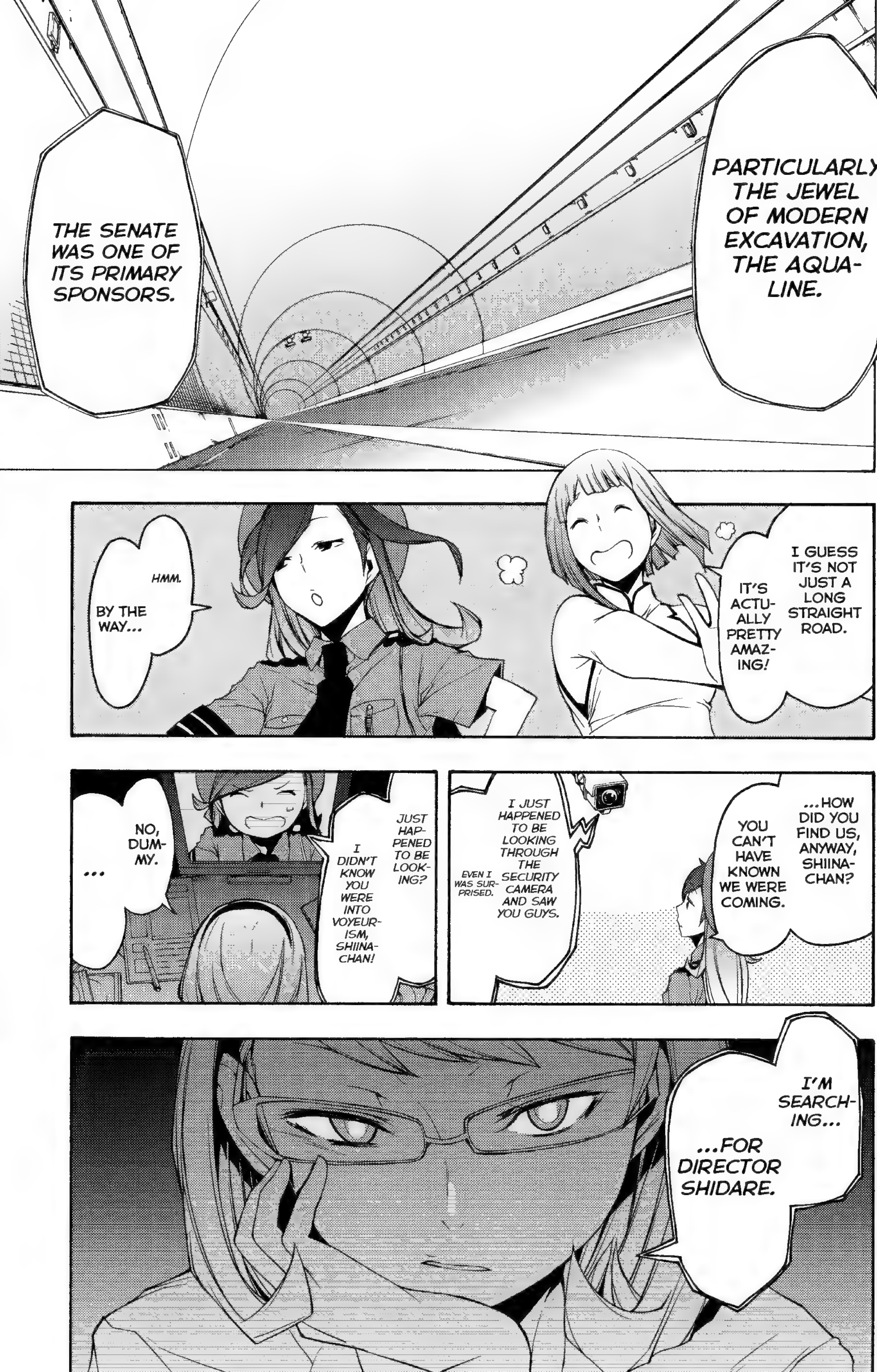


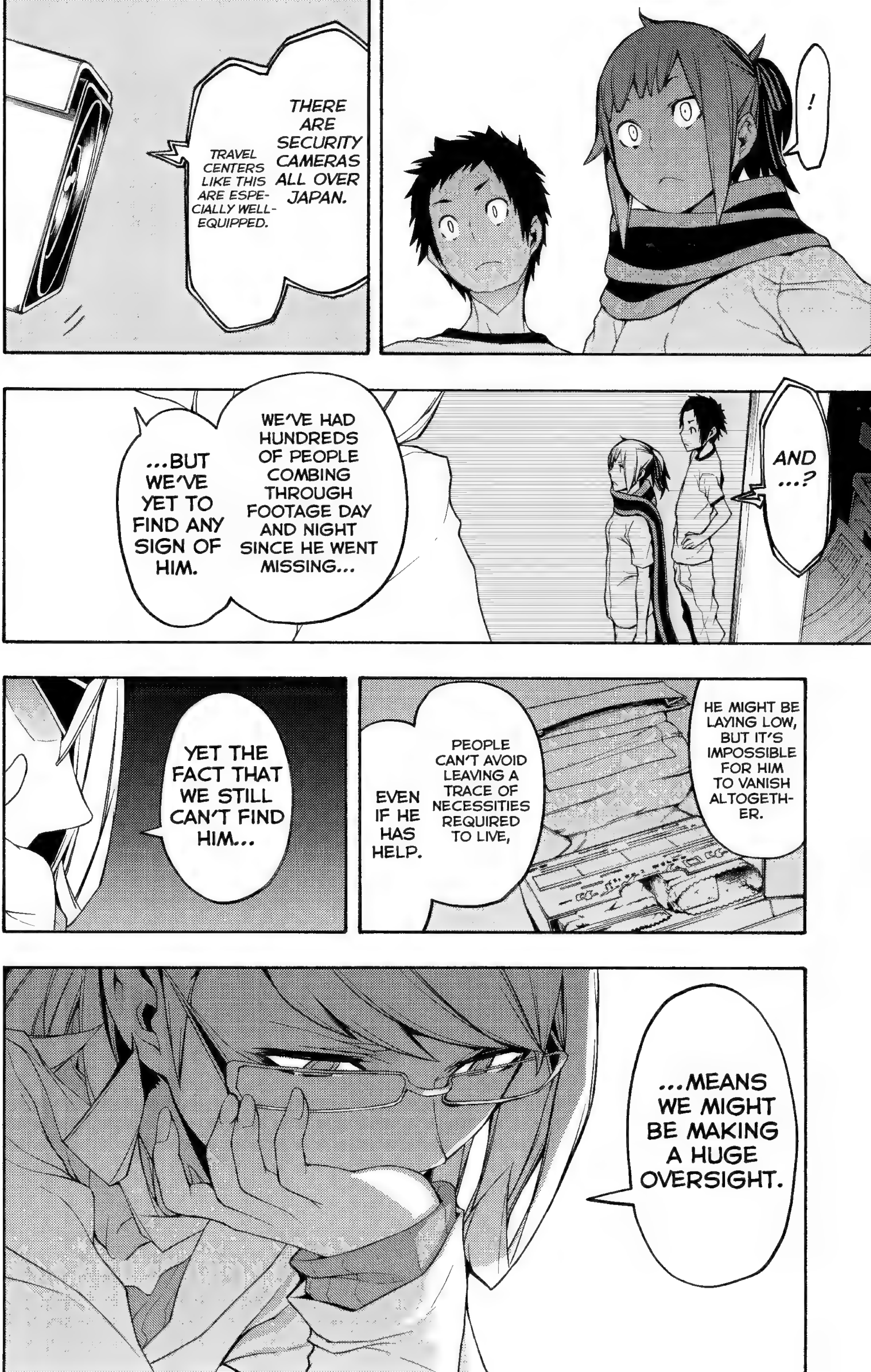

IS THIS FOR DIRECTING SHIPS?
LIKE A LIGHTHOUSE.
NOPE. THIS IS JUST A MONUMENT.
IT'S CALLED THE BELL OF HAPPINESS.
IT'S SAID THAT IF YOU RING THE BELL...
...WHILE THINKING ABOUT YOUR LOVED ONES, IT'LL BRING YOU HAPPINESS.
HMM.
ちら
PEEK
'ZAT SO?
ALRIGHTY. WANNA RING IT, HIME?
HUH?
IT'S JUST LIKE THE BELL AT SHRINES, RIGHT? FOR GOOD LUCK.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, I'LL JUST RING IT MYSELF.
すた
TAP
すた
TAP
AH...
すす...
SWIF

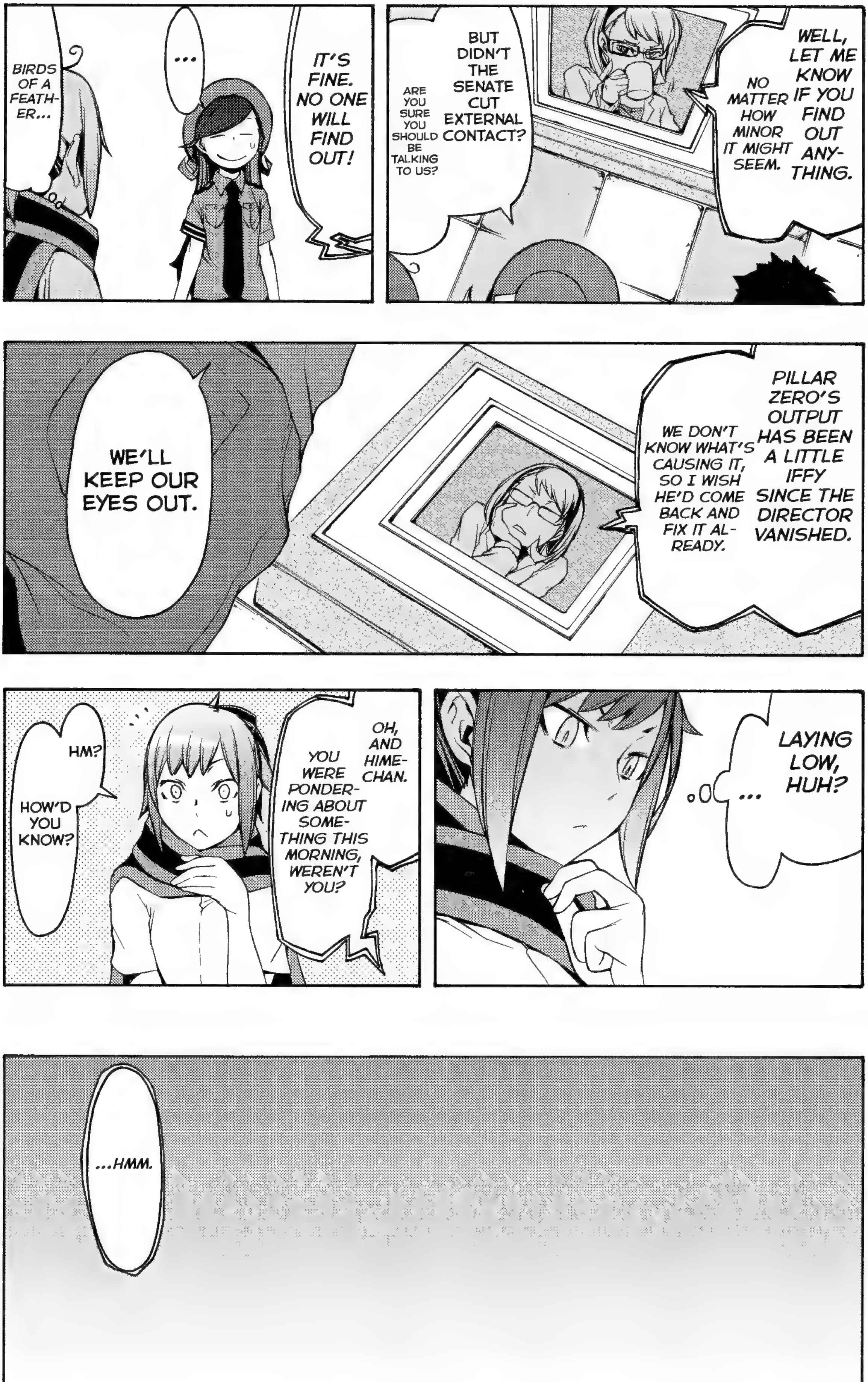

ガラ〜ン DING
コロン DONG
ガラン DING
DONG コロン・・・
にまにま・・・ GRIN GRIN
?
MY, MY, MY ...
ザザッ・・・ ZZT
HOW STEAMY.
ぱっ PAH

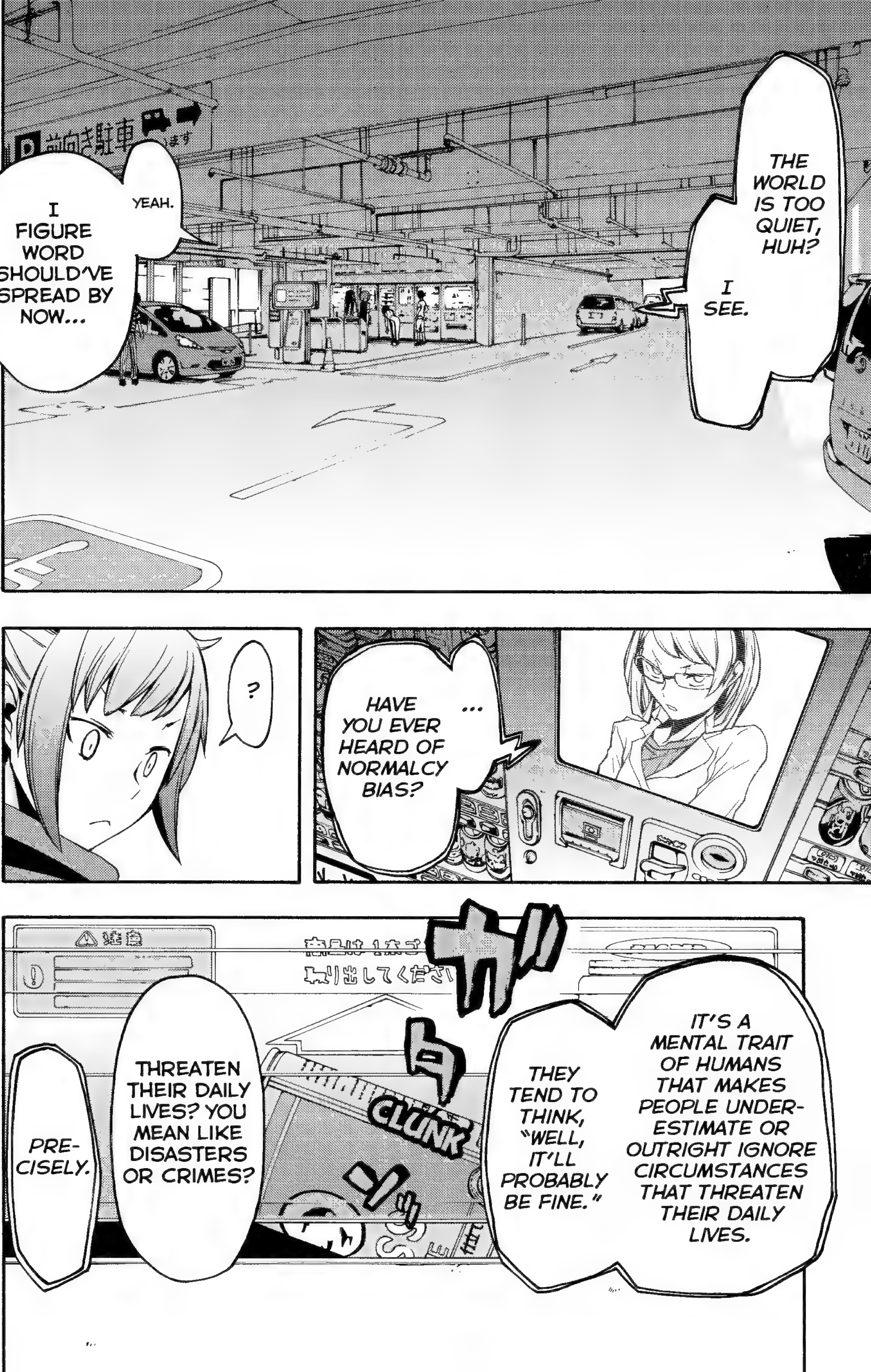

UWAAAH!
椎名さん!?
SHIINA-SAN?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THAT SURPRISED...
H-HOW DID YOU...?
HACKING.
HOW ARE YOU COMMUNICATING LIKE THIS?
I CAN SEE EVERYTHING FROM THAT SECURITY CAMERA OVER THERE.
OH. THEY EVEN PICK UP SOUND THESE DAYS?
THAT STARTLED ME.
CHECK OUT THE OTHER SIDE, AS WELL.
THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF ATTRACTIONS.
YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS PLACE, HUH?
BUT OF COURSE.
AFTER ALL...
...THE SENATE WAS INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTING THIS ISLAND.
HUH?

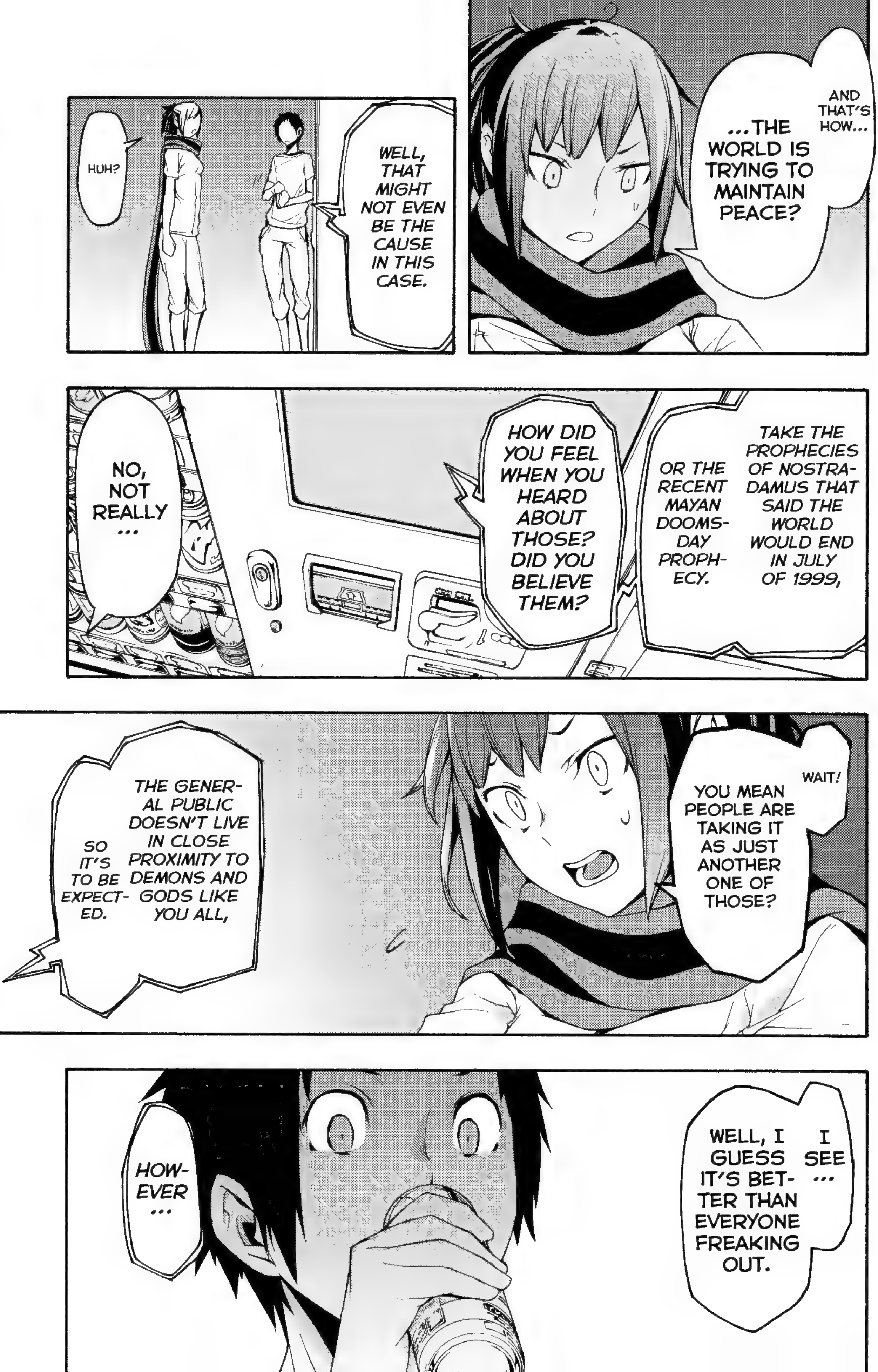

THE SENATE IS A GATHERING PLACE FOR TALENT.
THAT INCLUDES ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE.
THE SENATE HAD A HAND IN BUILDING ALMOST ALL OF THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR STRUCTURES.
YOU CAN SEE A COUPLE EXAMPLES FROM HERE.
THE SKY TREE...
...AND THE TOKYO TOWER.
I SEE.
NO WONDER THEY WERE ABLE TO PUT UP AN ANTI-DEMON BARRIER FROM THE TOKYO TOWER DURING THE MAYORAL ELECTION DEBACLE...
WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONNECT THAT EASILY OTHERWISE.
AND IT'S NOT JUST HERE.
EVERYTHING INVOLVING UMIHOTARU HAPPENED BEFORE MY TIME,
BUT I HEAR THE SENATE PLAYED A BIG ROLE IN ITS CONSTRUCTION.

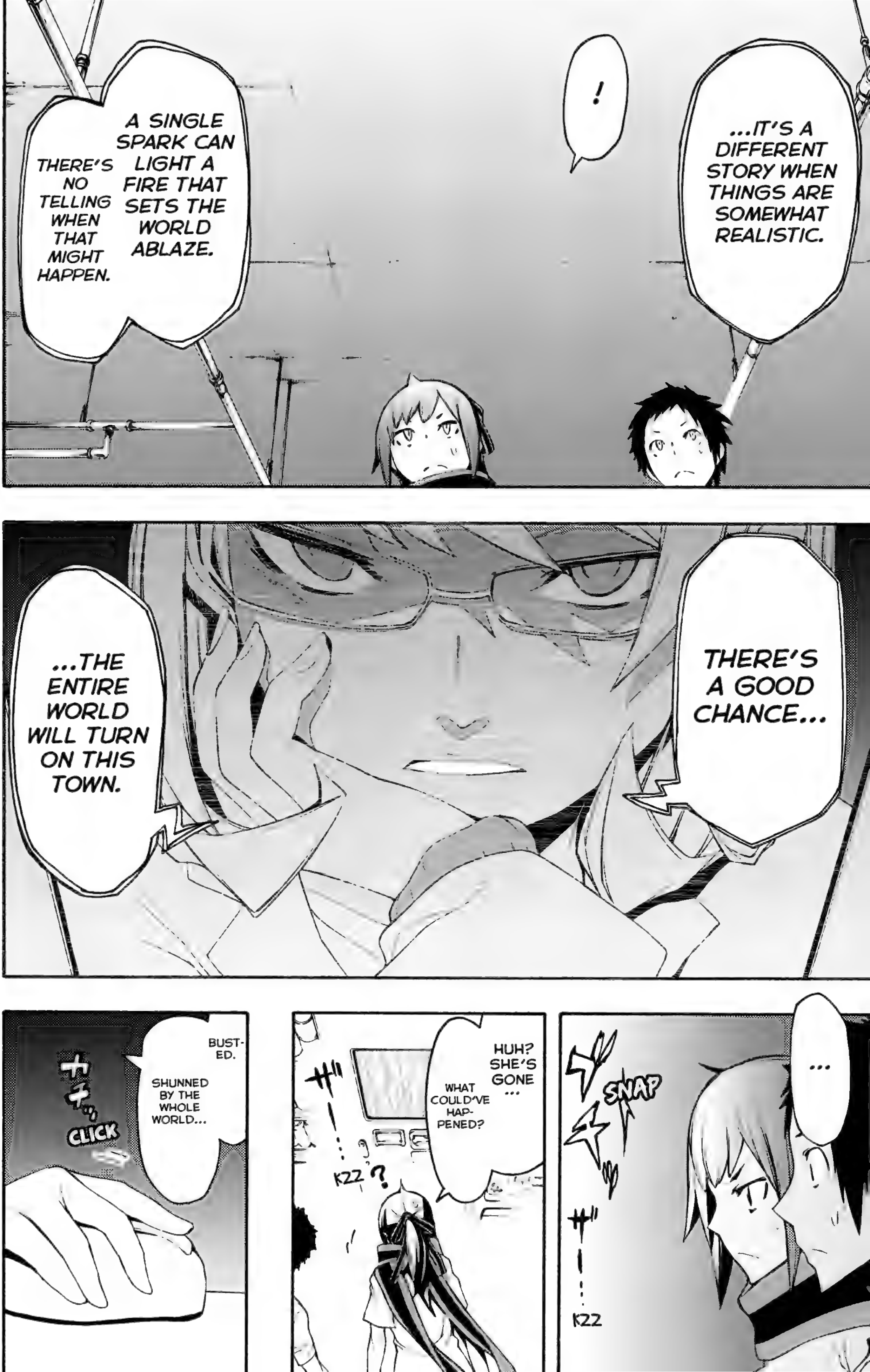

PARTICULARLY THE JEWEL OF MODERN EXCAVATION, THE AQUA-LINE.
THE SENATE WAS ONE OF ITS PRIMARY SPONSORS.
I GUESS IT'S NOT JUST A LONG STRAIGHT ROAD.
IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY AMAZING!
HMM.
BY THE WAY...
...HOW DID YOU FIND US, ANYWAY, SHIINA-CHAN?
YOU CAN'T HAVE KNOWN WE WERE COMING.
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE LOOKING THROUGH THE SECURITY CAMERA AND SAW YOU GUYS.
EVEN I WAS SURPRISED.
JUST HAPPENED TO BE LOOKING?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTO VOYEURISM, SHIINA-CHAN!
NO, DUMMY.
...
I'M SEARCHING...
...FOR DIRECTOR SHIDARE.

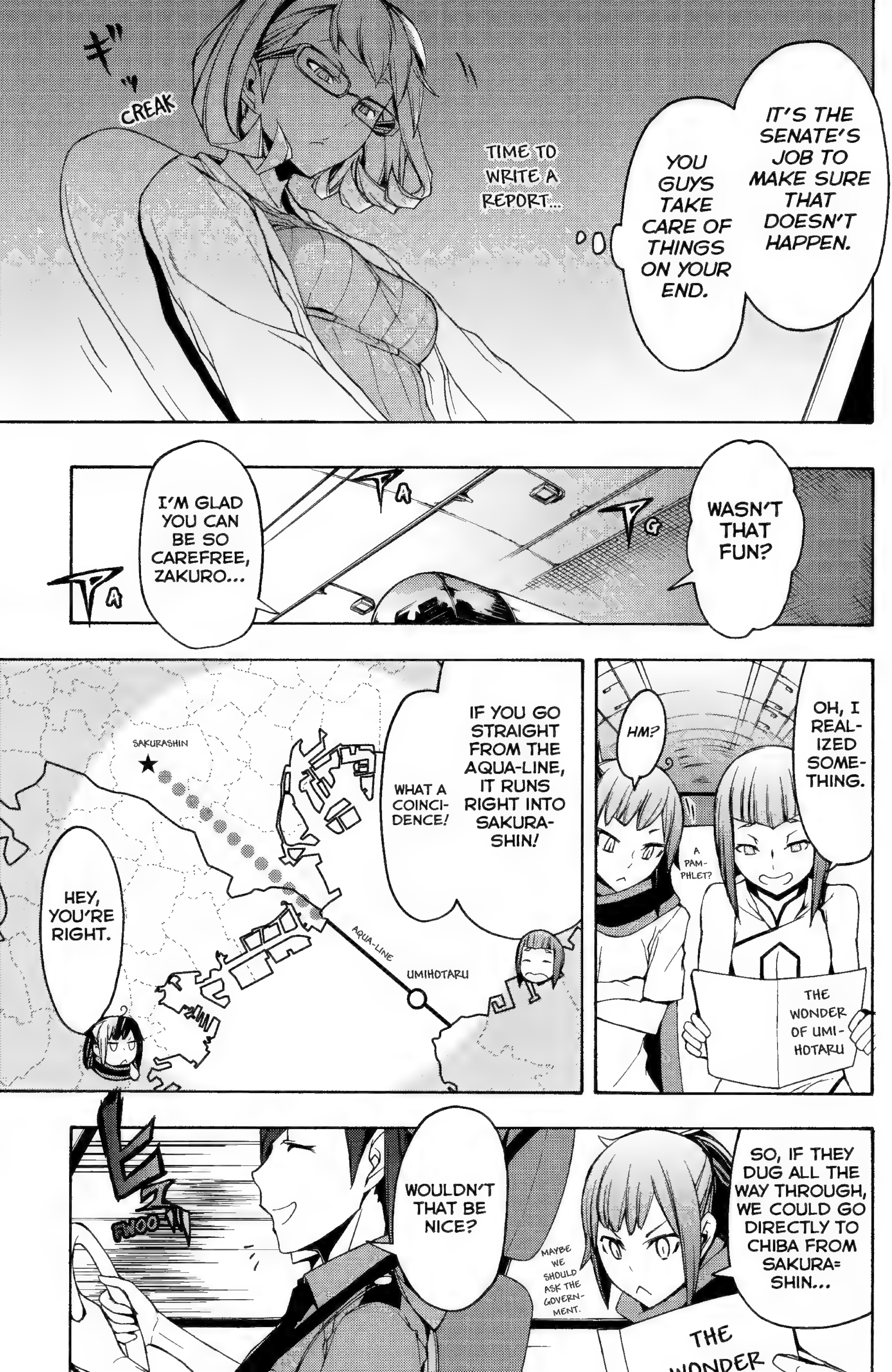

!
THERE ARE SECURITY CAMERAS ALL OVER JAPAN.
TRAVEL CENTERS LIKE THIS ARE ESPECIALLY WELL-EQUIPPED.
AND...?
WE'VE HAD HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE COMBING THROUGH FOOTAGE DAY AND NIGHT SINCE HE WENT MISSING...
...BUT WE'VE YET TO FIND ANY SIGN OF HIM.
HE MIGHT BE LAYING LOW, BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO VANISH ALTOGETHER.
PEOPLE CAN'T AVOID LEAVING A TRACE OF NECESSITIES REQUIRED TO LIVE,
EVEN IF HE HAS HELP.
YET THE FACT THAT WE STILL CAN'T FIND HIM...
...MEANS WE MIGHT BE MAKING A HUGE OVERSIGHT.

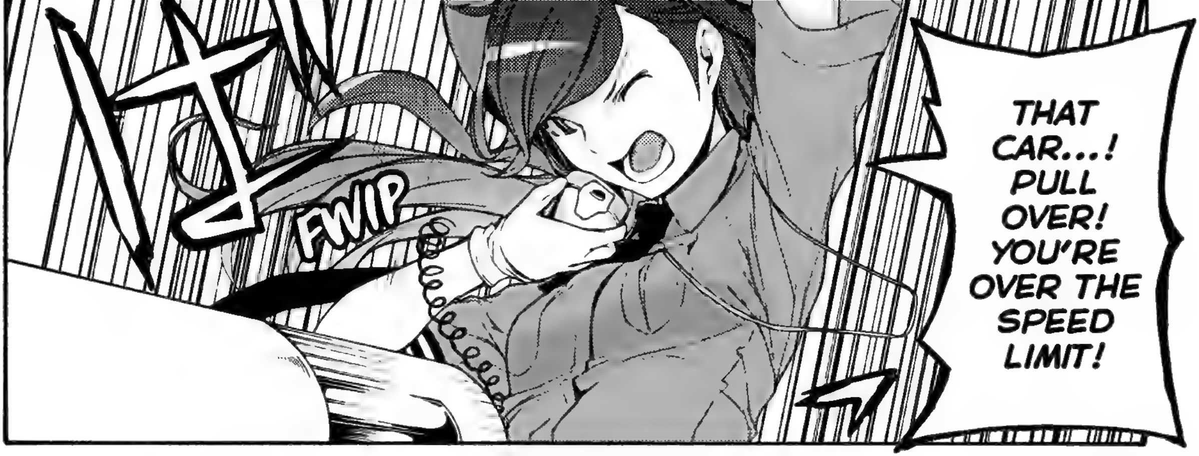

WELL, LET ME KNOW IF YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING.
NO MATTER HOW MINOR IT MIGHT SEEM.
BUT DIDN'T THE SENATE CUT EXTERNAL CONTACT?
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE TALKING TO US?
IT'S FINE. NO ONE WILL FIND OUT!
...
BIRDS OF A FEATHER...
PILLAR ZERO'S OUTPUT HAS BEEN A LITTLE IFFY SINCE THE DIRECTOR VANISHED.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S CAUSING IT, SO I WISH HE'D COME BACK AND FIX IT ALREADY.
WE'LL KEEP OUR EYES OUT.
LAYING LOW, HUH?
...
OH, AND HIME-CHAN.
YOU WERE PONDERING ABOUT SOMETHING THIS MORNING, WEREN'T YOU?
HM?
HOW'D YOU KNOW?
...HMM.

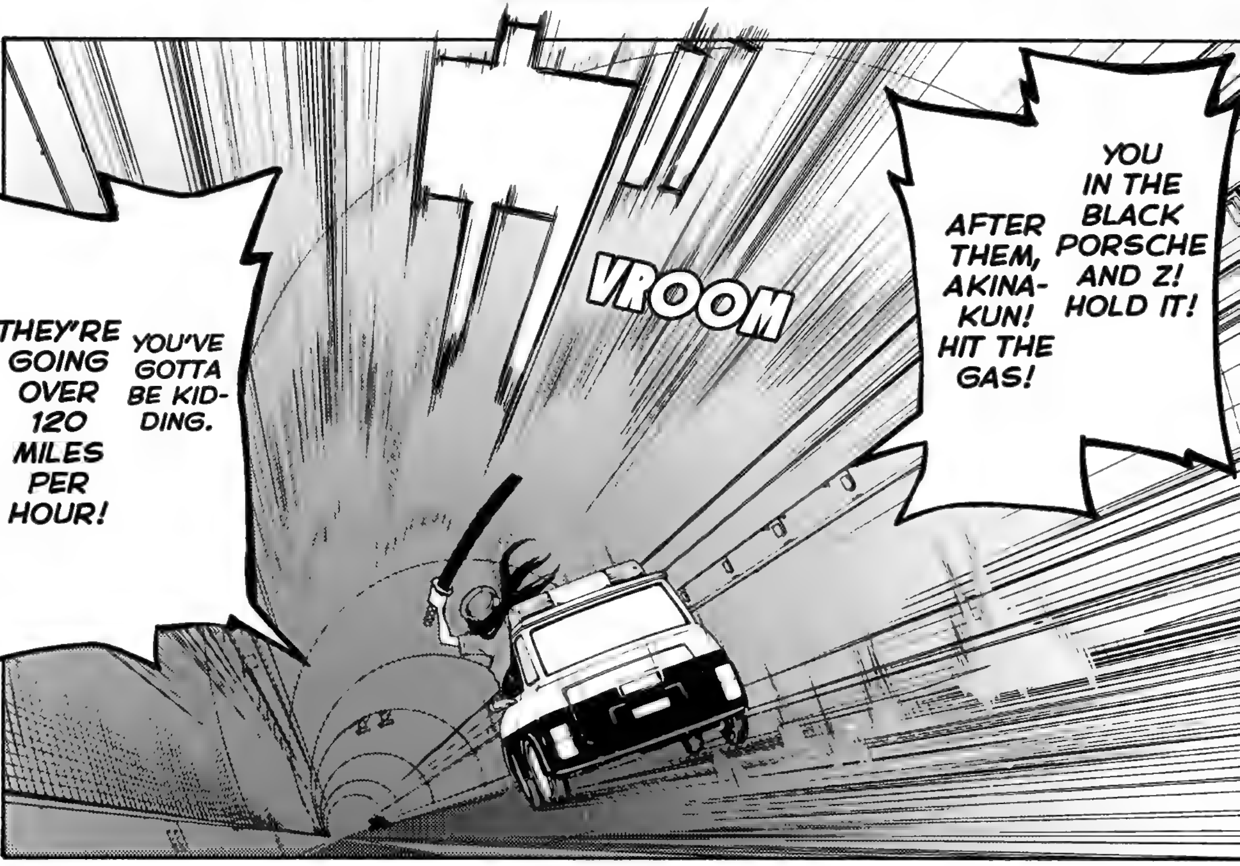

前向き駐車
THE WORLD IS TOO QUIET, HUH?
I SEE.
YEAH.
I FIGURE WORD SHOULD'VE SPREAD BY NOW...
...
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF NORMALCY BIAS?
?
注意
取り出してください
ガ
ト
ン
CLUNK
IT'S A MENTAL TRAIT OF HUMANS THAT MAKES PEOPLE UNDERESTIMATE OR OUTRIGHT IGNORE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THREATEN THEIR DAILY LIVES.
THEY TEND TO THINK, "WELL, IT'LL PROBABLY BE FINE."
THREATEN THEIR DAILY LIVES? YOU MEAN LIKE DISASTERS OR CRIMES?
PRECISELY.

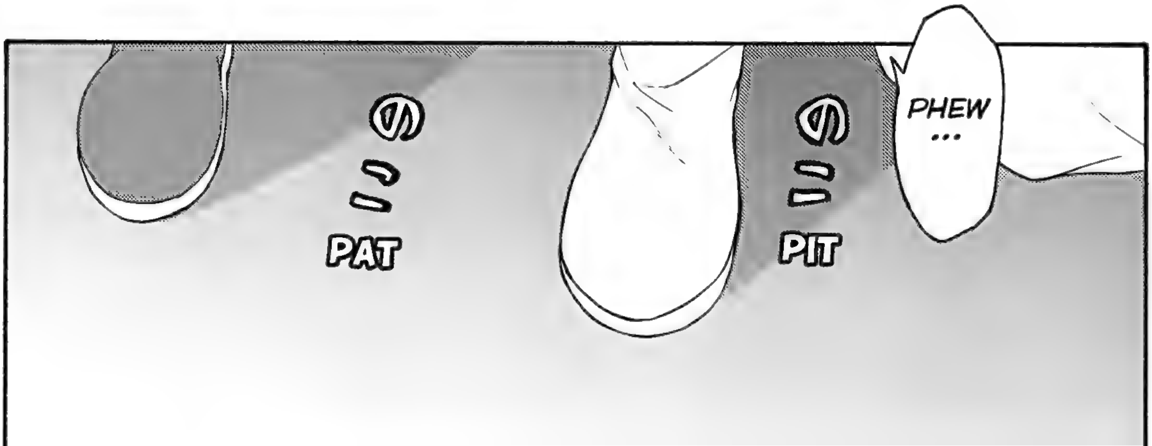

AND THAT'S HOW...
...THE WORLD IS TRYING TO MAINTAIN PEACE?
WELL, THAT MIGHT NOT EVEN BE THE CAUSE IN THIS CASE.
HUH?
TAKE THE PROPHECIES OF NOSTRADAMUS THAT SAID THE WORLD WOULD END IN JULY OF 1999,
OR THE RECENT MAYAN DOOMSDAY PROPHECY.
HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU HEARD ABOUT THOSE? DID YOU BELIEVE THEM?
NO, NOT REALLY...
WAIT!
YOU MEAN PEOPLE ARE TAKING IT AS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE?
THE GENERAL PUBLIC DOESN'T LIVE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO DEMONS AND GODS LIKE YOU ALL,
SO IT'S TO BE EXPECTED.
I SEE...
WELL, I GUESS IT'S BETTER THAN EVERYONE FREAKING OUT.
HOWEVER...

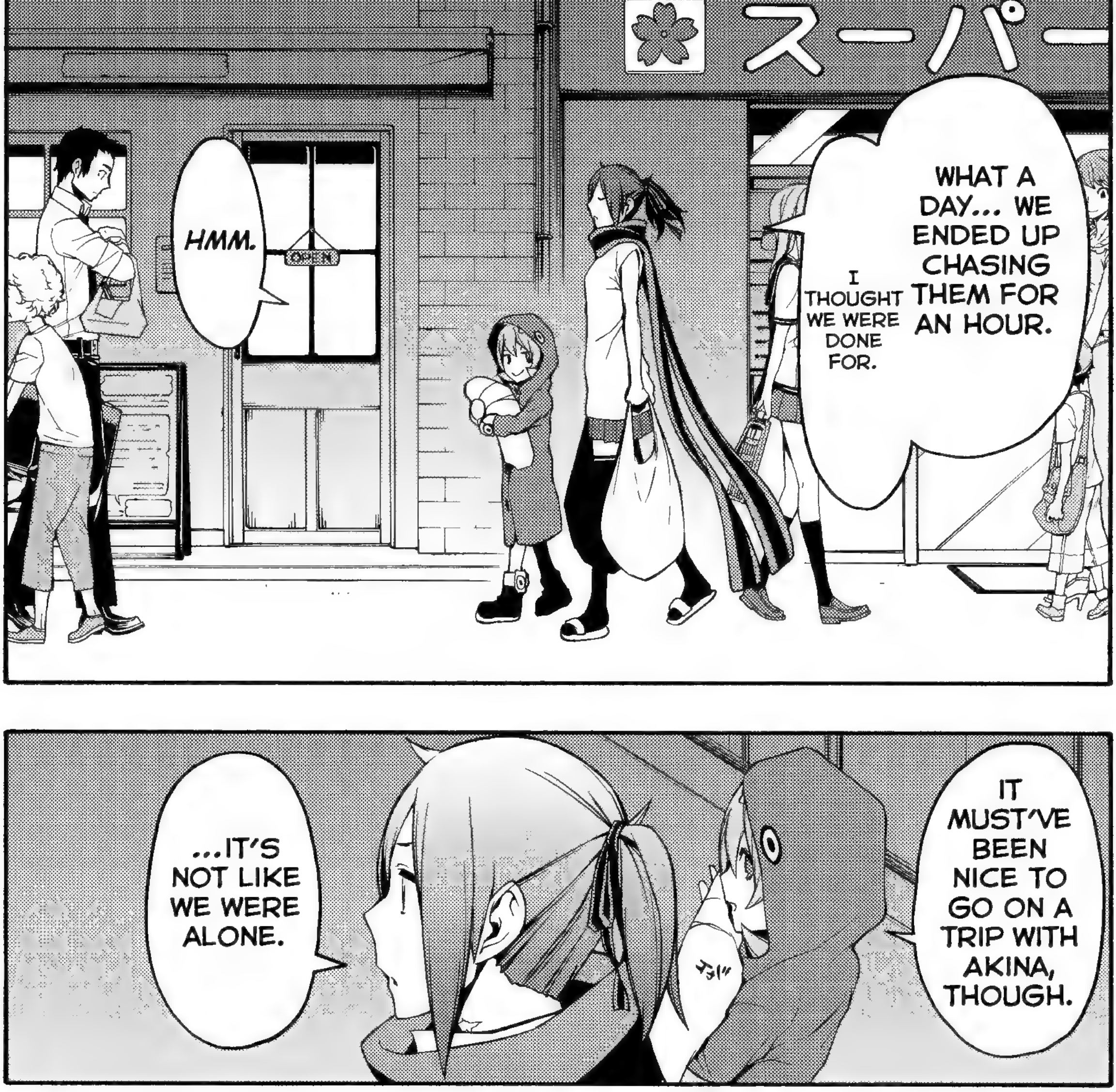

...IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY WHEN THINGS ARE SOMEWHAT REALISTIC.
!
A SINGLE SPARK CAN LIGHT A FIRE THAT SETS THE WORLD ABLAZE.
THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN THAT MIGHT HAPPEN.
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE...
...THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL TURN ON THIS TOWN.
...
SNAP
ザ
KZZ
HUH? SHE'S GONE...
WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED?
ザ
KZZ
?
BUSTED.
SHUNNED BY THE WHOLE WORLD...
カチッ
CLICK


ギッ
CREAK
IT'S THE SENATE'S JOB TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
YOU GUYS TAKE CARE OF THINGS ON YOUR END.
TIME TO WRITE A REPORT...
A
G
WASN'T THAT FUN?
I'M GLAD YOU CAN BE SO CAREFREE, ZAKURO...
A
OH, I REALIZED SOMETHING.
HM?
A PAMPHLET?
THE WONDER OF UMI-HOTARU
IF YOU GO STRAIGHT FROM THE AQUA-LINE, IT RUNS RIGHT INTO SAKURA-SHIN!
WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
SAKURASHIN
AQUA-LINE
UMIHOTARU
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT.
SO, IF THEY DUG ALL THE WAY THROUGH, WE COULD GO DIRECTLY TO CHIBA FROM SAKURA=SHIN...
WOULDN'T THAT BE NICE?
MAYBE WE SHOULD ASK THE GOVERNMENT.
THE WONDER
ピュ
FWOO-M

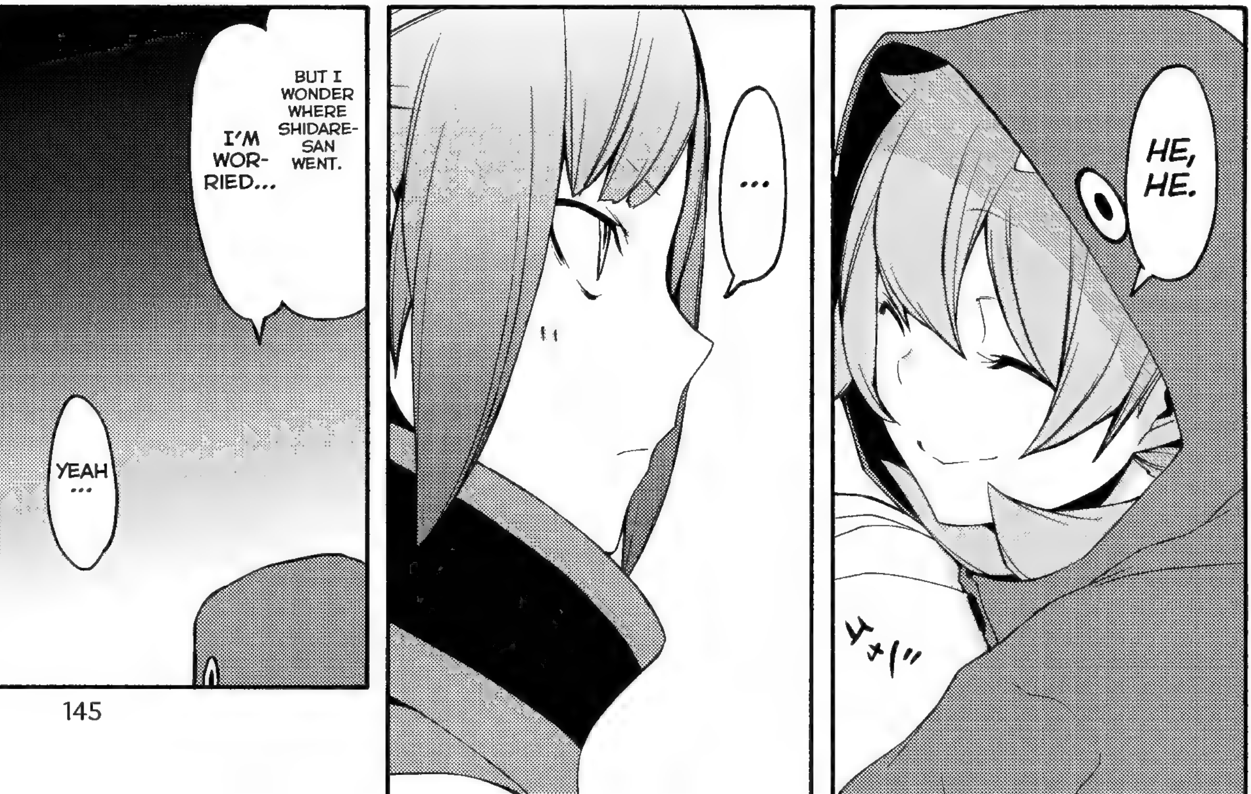

THAT CAR...! PULL OVER! YOU'RE OVER THE SPEED LIMIT!
FWIP

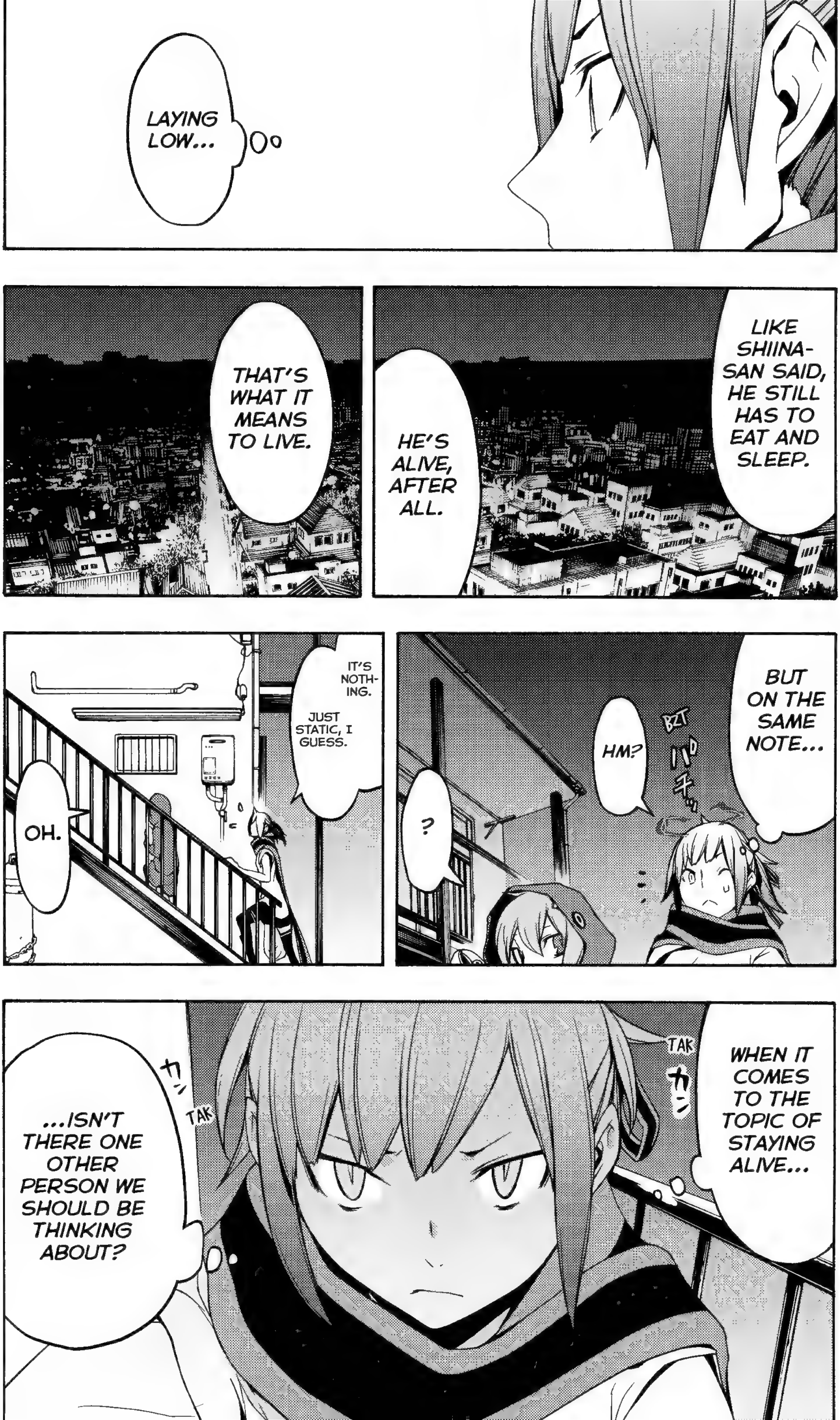

YOU IN THE BLACK PORSCHE AND Z! HOLD IT!
AFTER THEM, AKINA-KUN! HIT THE GAS!
VROOM
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING.
THEY'RE GOING OVER 120 MILES PER HOUR!

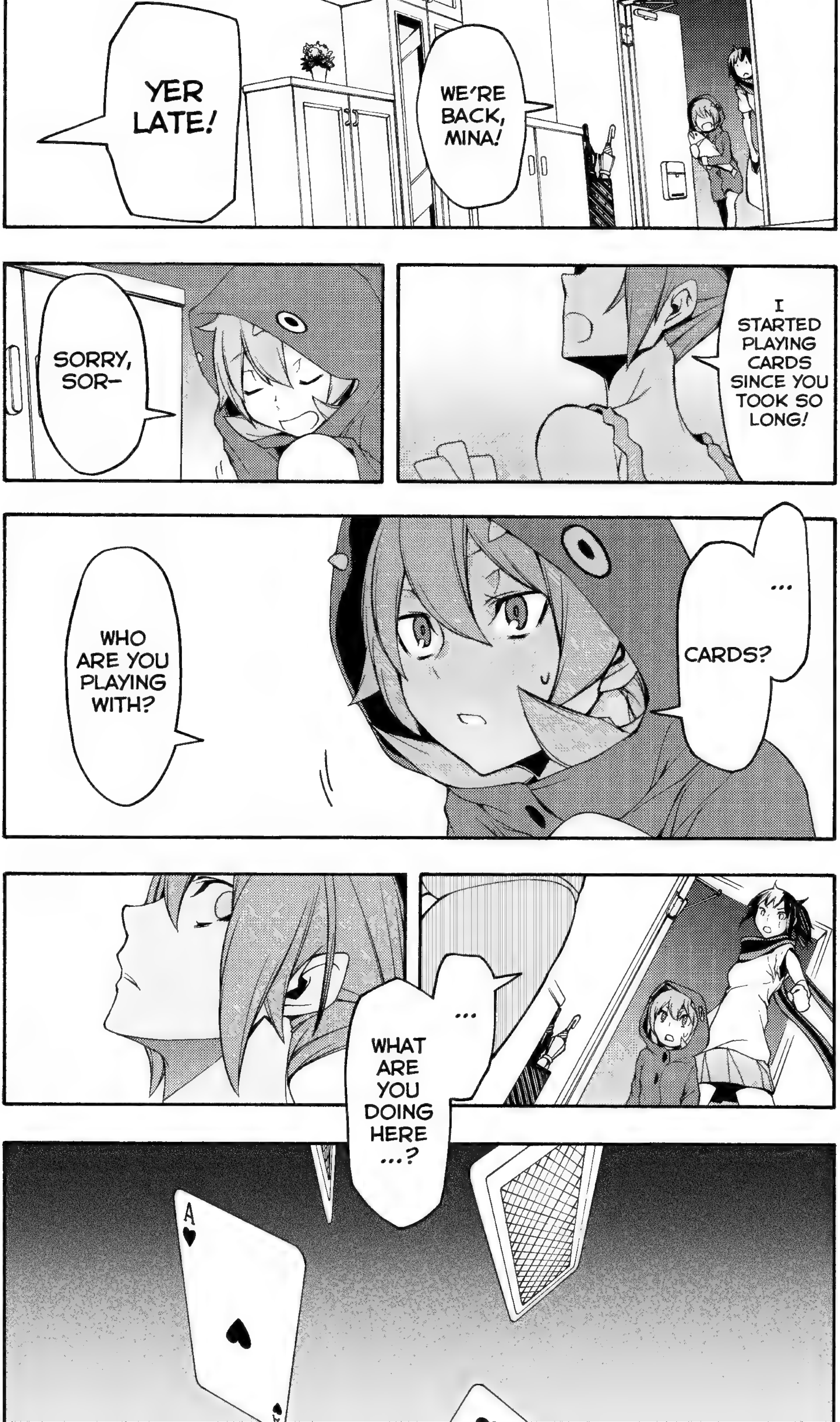

PHEW...
PIT
PAT

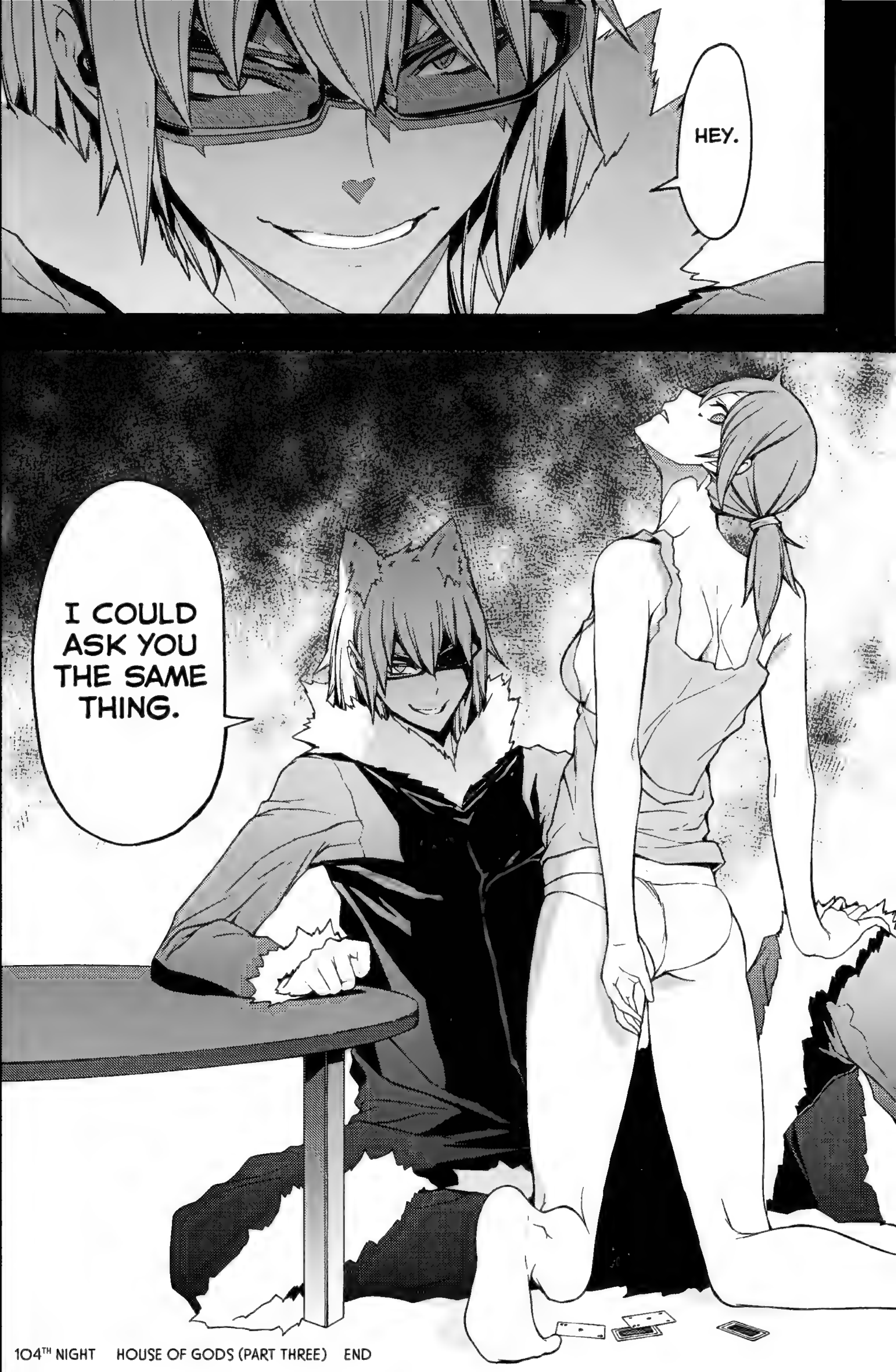

スーパー
WHAT A DAY... WE ENDED UP CHASING THEM FOR AN HOUR.
I THOUGHT WE WERE DONE FOR.
OPEN
HMM.
IT MUST'VE BEEN NICE TO GO ON A TRIP WITH AKINA, THOUGH.
...IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE ALONE.

Fish: Salmon


HE, HE.
...
BUT I WONDER WHERE SHIDARE-SAN WENT.
I'M WORRIED...
YEAH...

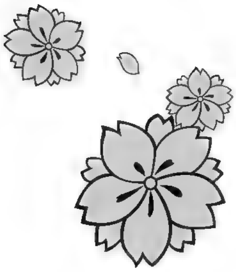

LAYING LOW...
LIKE SHIINA-SAN SAID, HE STILL HAS TO EAT AND SLEEP.
HE'S ALIVE, AFTER ALL.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE.
BUT ON THE SAME NOTE...
BZT
バチッ
HM?
?
IT'S NOTHING.
JUST STATIC, I GUESS.
OH.
WHEN IT COMES TO THE TOPIC OF STAYING ALIVE...
TAK
カン
カン
TAK
...ISN'T THERE ONE OTHER PERSON WE SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT?


WE'RE BACK, MINA!
YER LATE!
I STARTED PLAYING CARDS SINCE YOU TOOK SO LONG!
SORRY, SOR–
... CARDS?
WHO ARE YOU PLAYING WITH?
... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ...?


HEY.
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING.

104TH NIGHT HOUSE OF GODS (PART THREE) END

YOZAKURA
QUARTET
18



YOZAKURA QUARTET 18

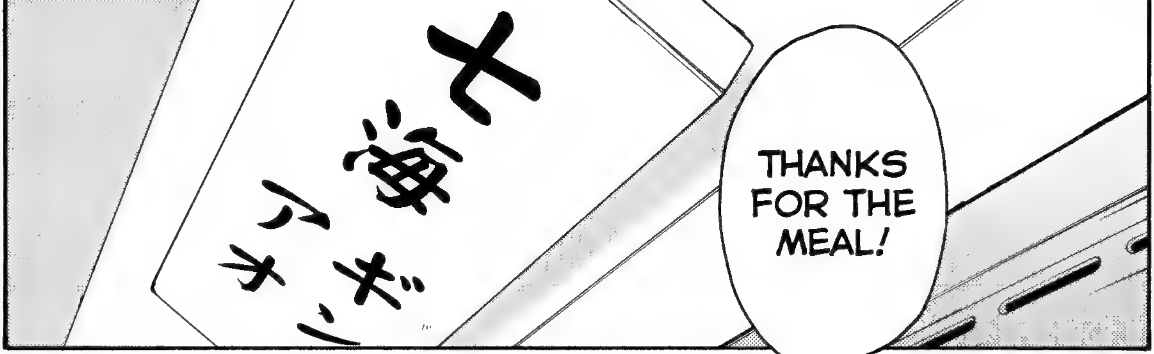
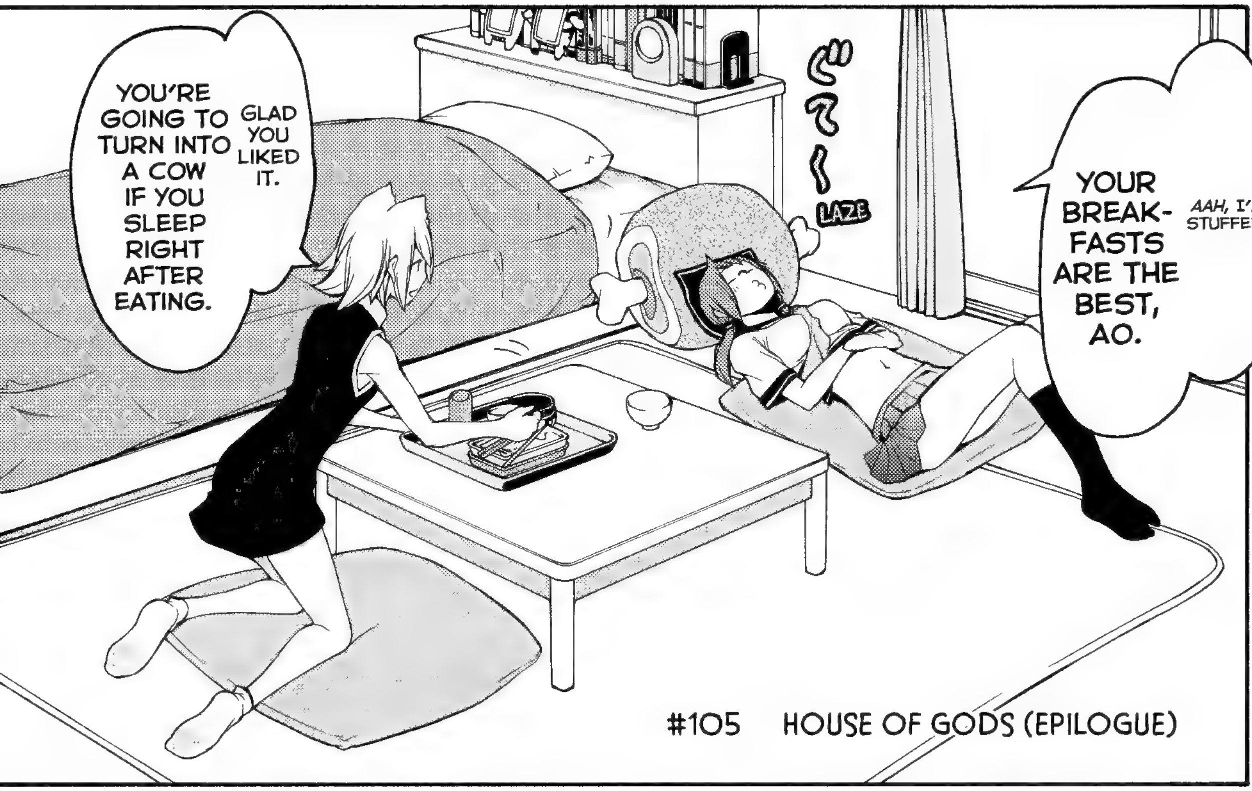
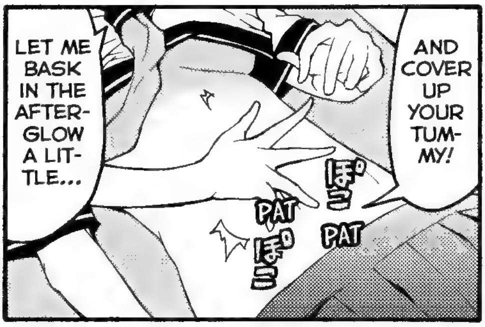
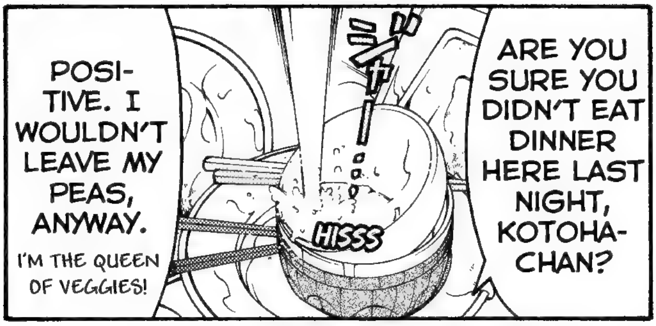

七海アオ ギン
THANKS FOR THE MEAL!

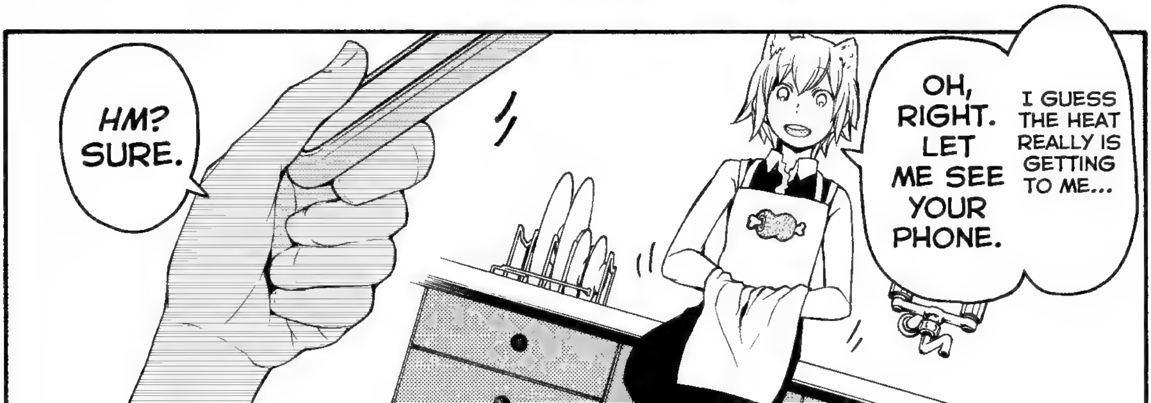
Plate: Nanami Ao, Gin

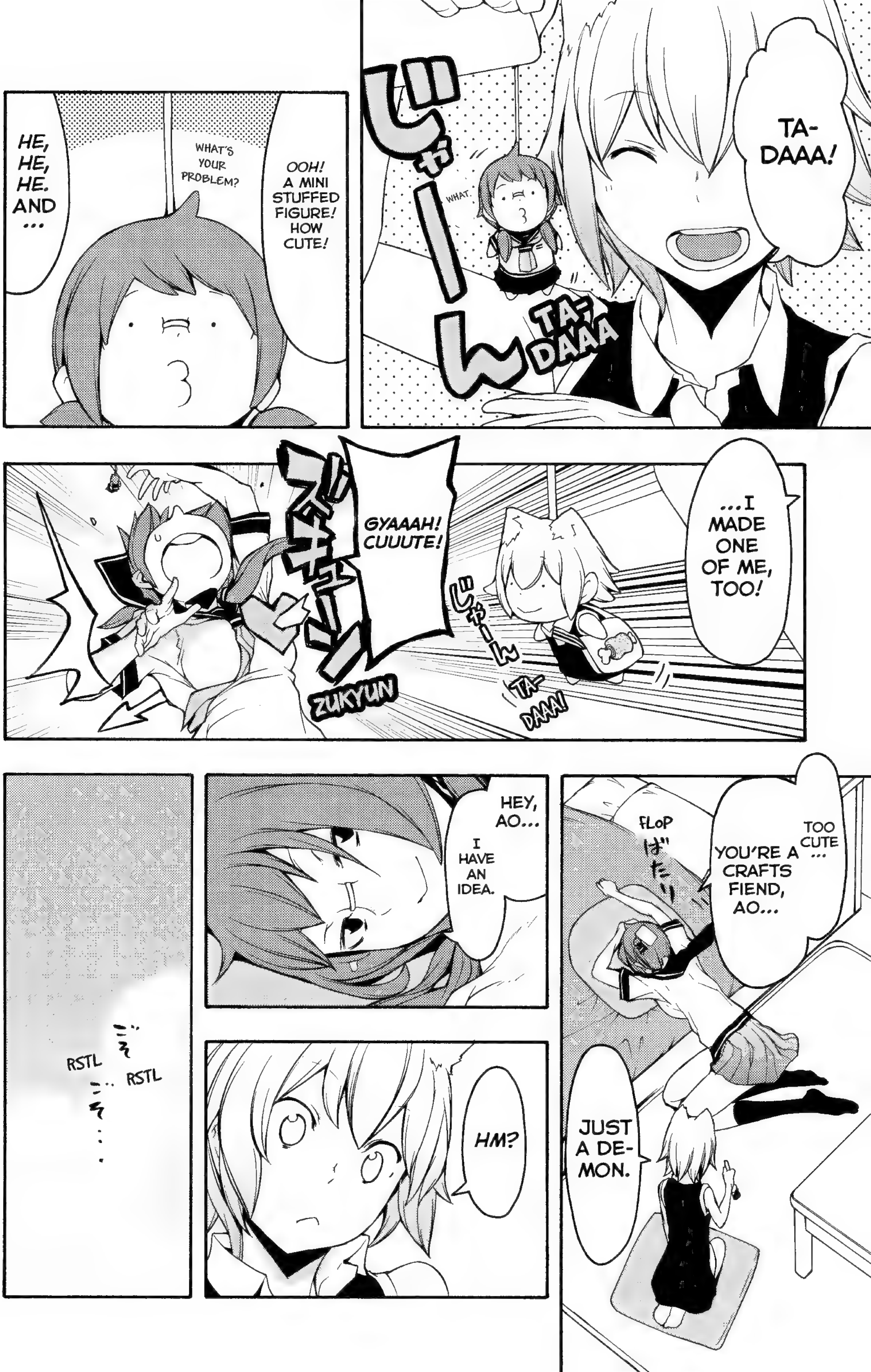

YOUR BREAKFASTS ARE THE BEST, AO.
AAH, I'M STUFFED.
ぐで〜
LAZE
GLAD YOU LIKED IT.
YOU'RE GOING TO TURN INTO A COW IF YOU SLEEP RIGHT AFTER EATING.

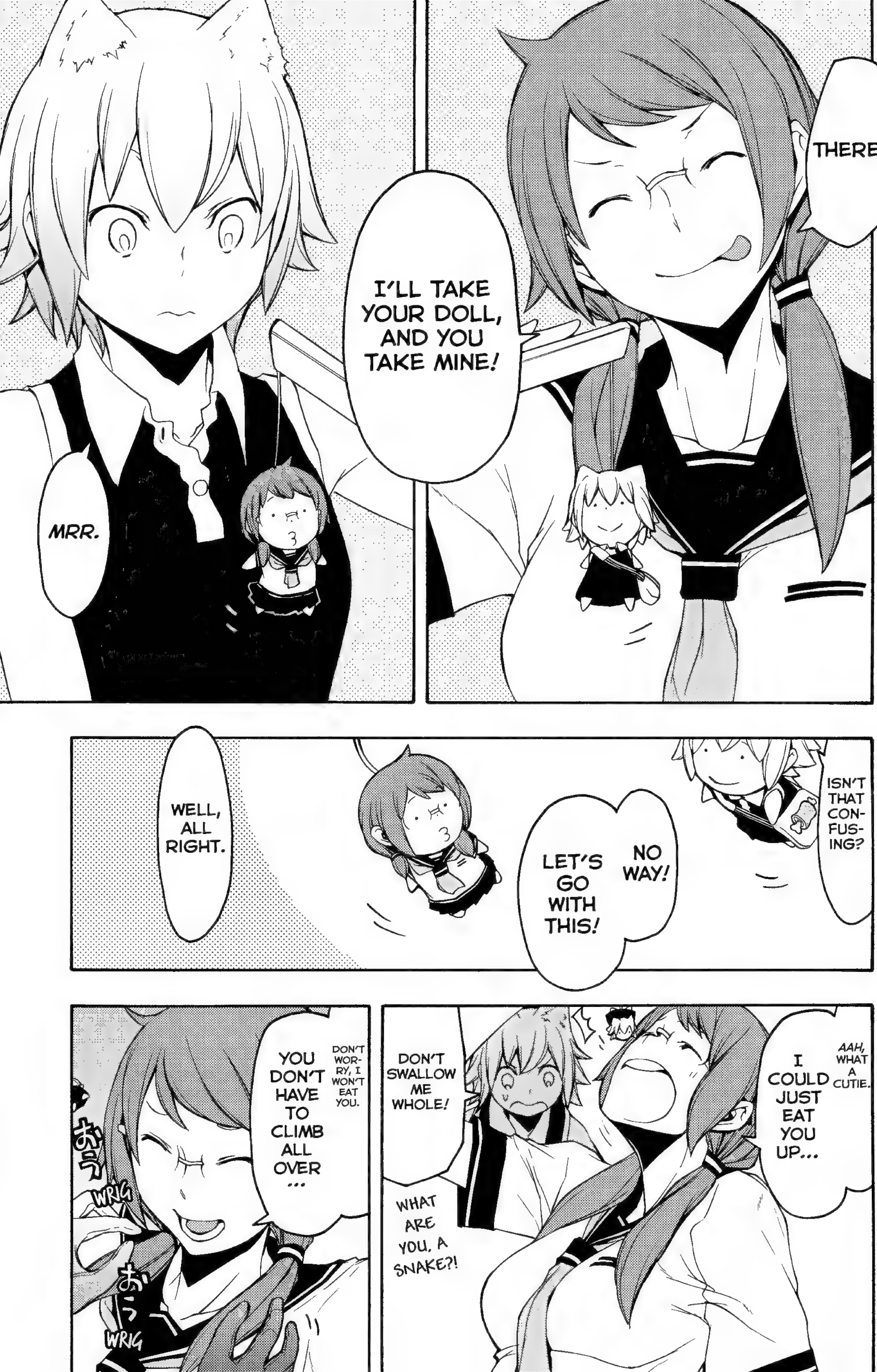
#105 HOUSE OF GODS (EPILOGUE)

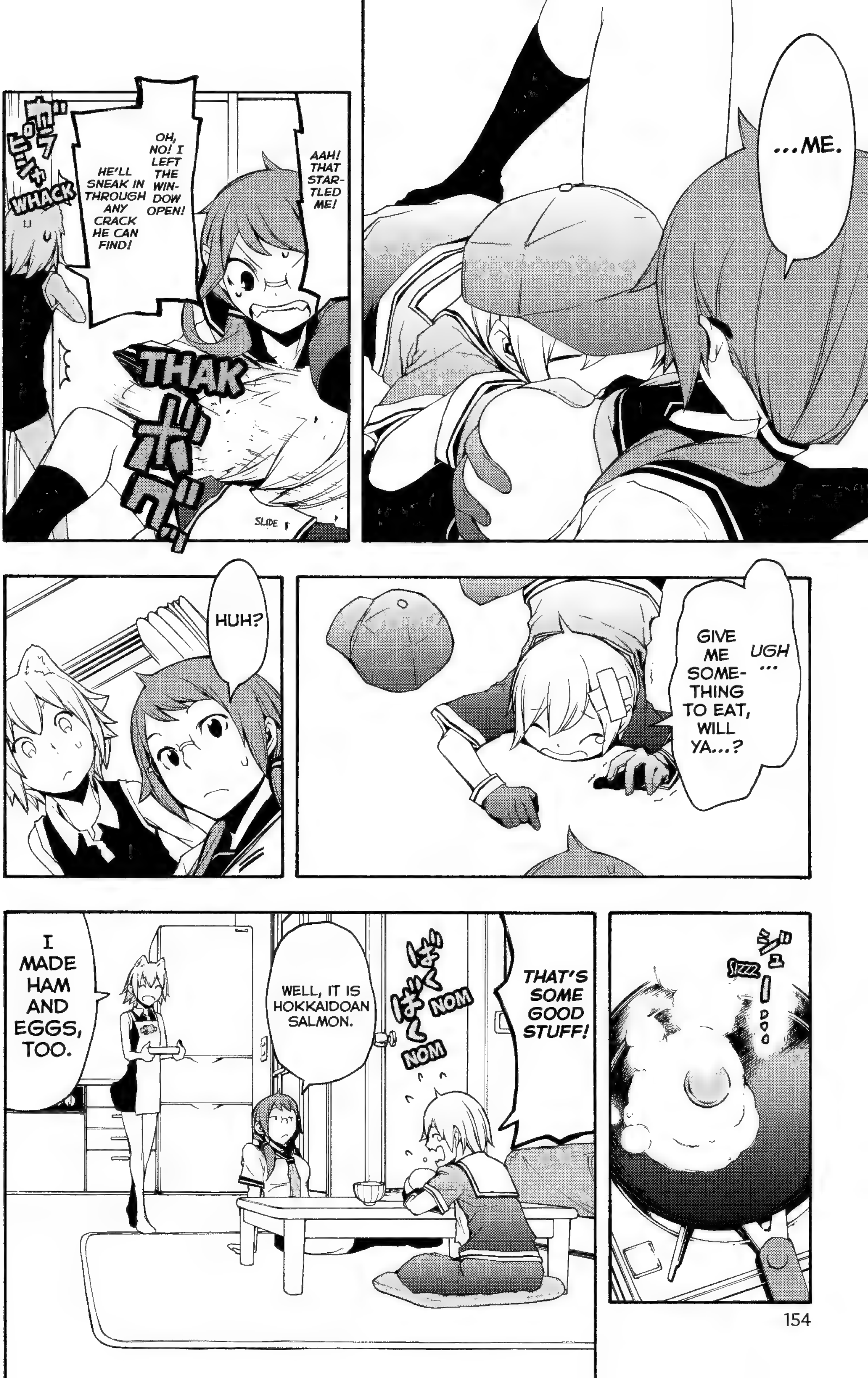

AND COVER UP YOUR TUMMY!
ぽこ
PAT
ぽこ
PAT
LET ME BASK IN THE AFTERGLOW A LITTLE...

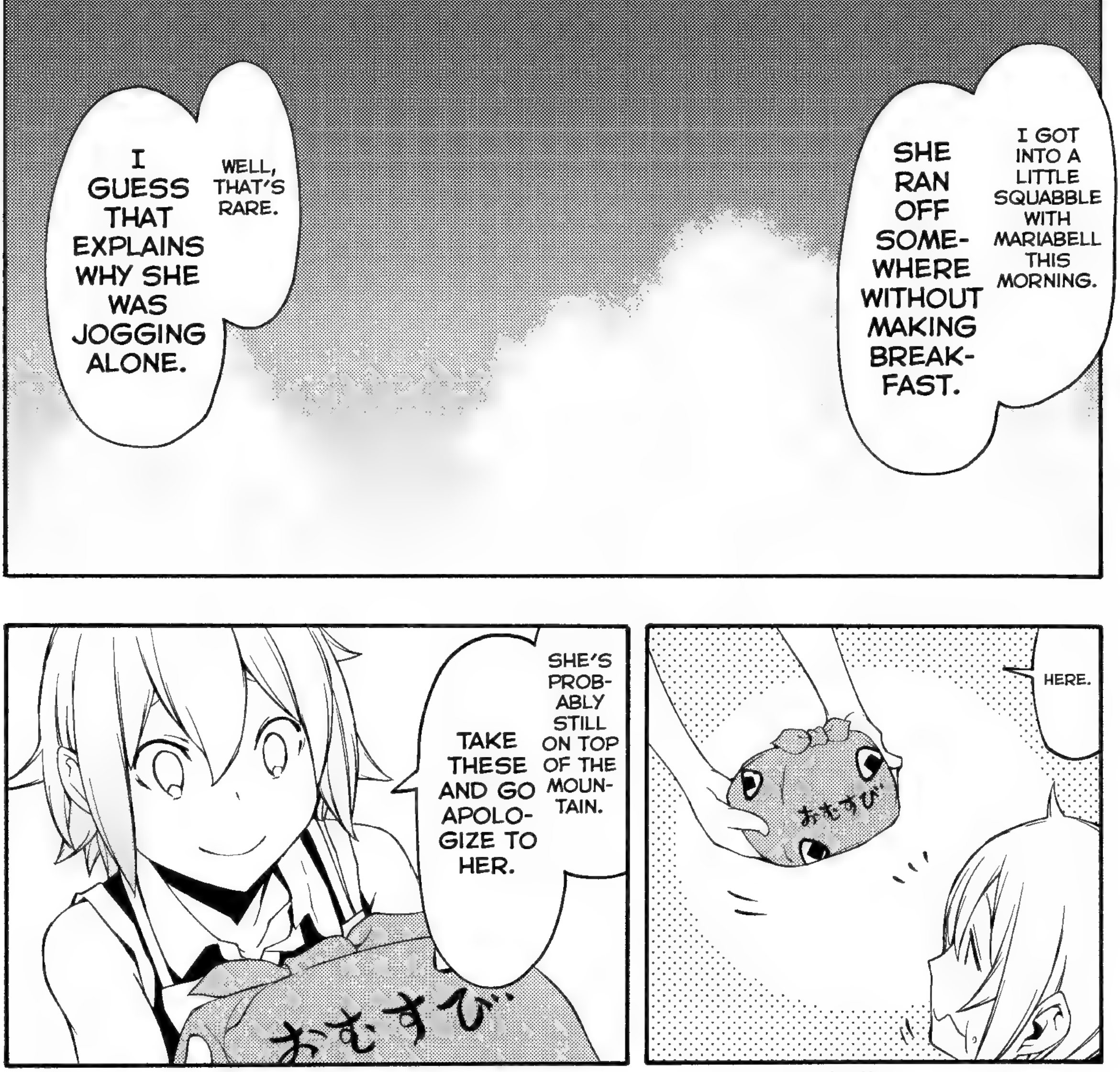

ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T EAT DINNER HERE LAST NIGHT, KOTOHA-CHAN?
ジャー
HISSS
POSITIVE. I WOULDN'T LEAVE MY PEAS, ANYWAY.
I'M THE QUEEN OF VEGGIES!


OH, RIGHT. LET ME SEE YOUR PHONE.
I GUESS THE HEAT REALLY IS GETTING TO ME...
HM? SURE.

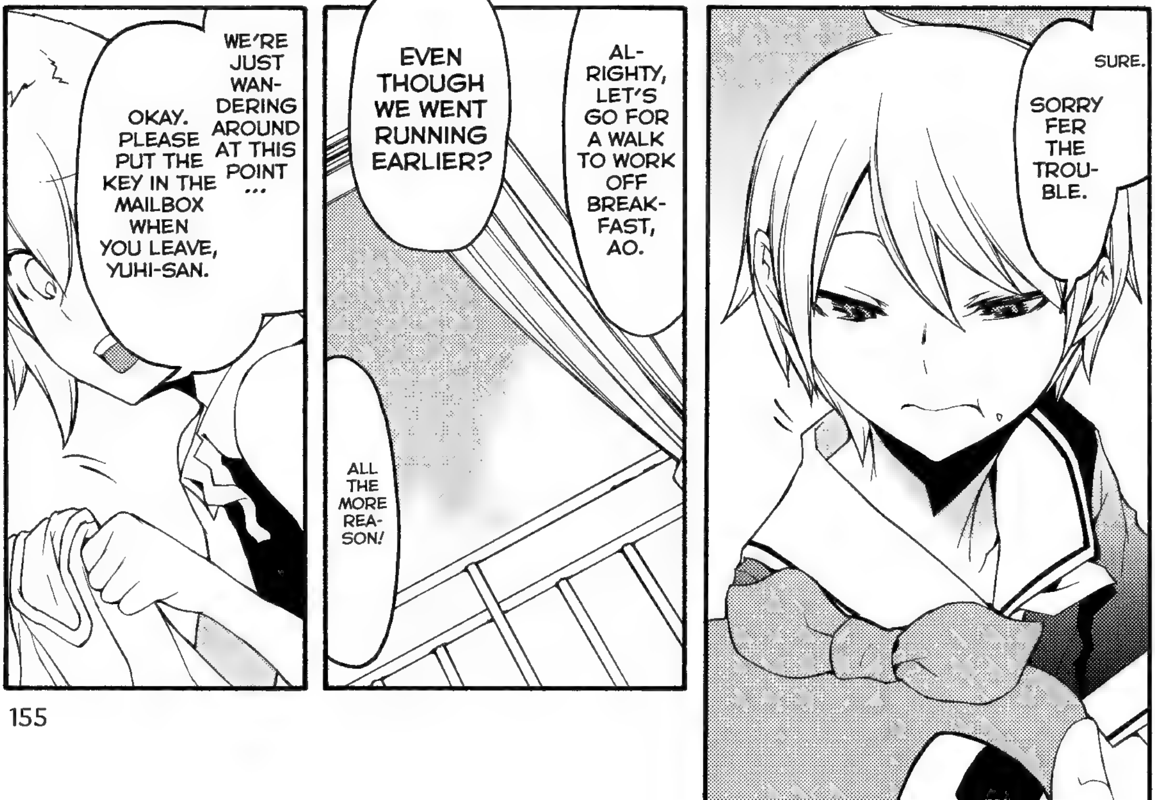

TA-DAAA!
じゃーん
TA-DAAA
WHAT.
OOH! A MINI STUFFED FIGURE! HOW CUTE!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
HE, HE, HE. AND...
...I MADE ONE OF ME, TOO!
じゃーん
TA-DAAA!
GYAAAH! CUUUTE!
ズキューン
ZUKYUN
TOO CUTE...
YOU'RE A CRAFTS FIEND, AO...
FLOP
ばたり
JUST A DEMON.
HEY, AO...
I HAVE AN IDEA.
HM?
ごそ
RSTL
ごそ...
RSTL

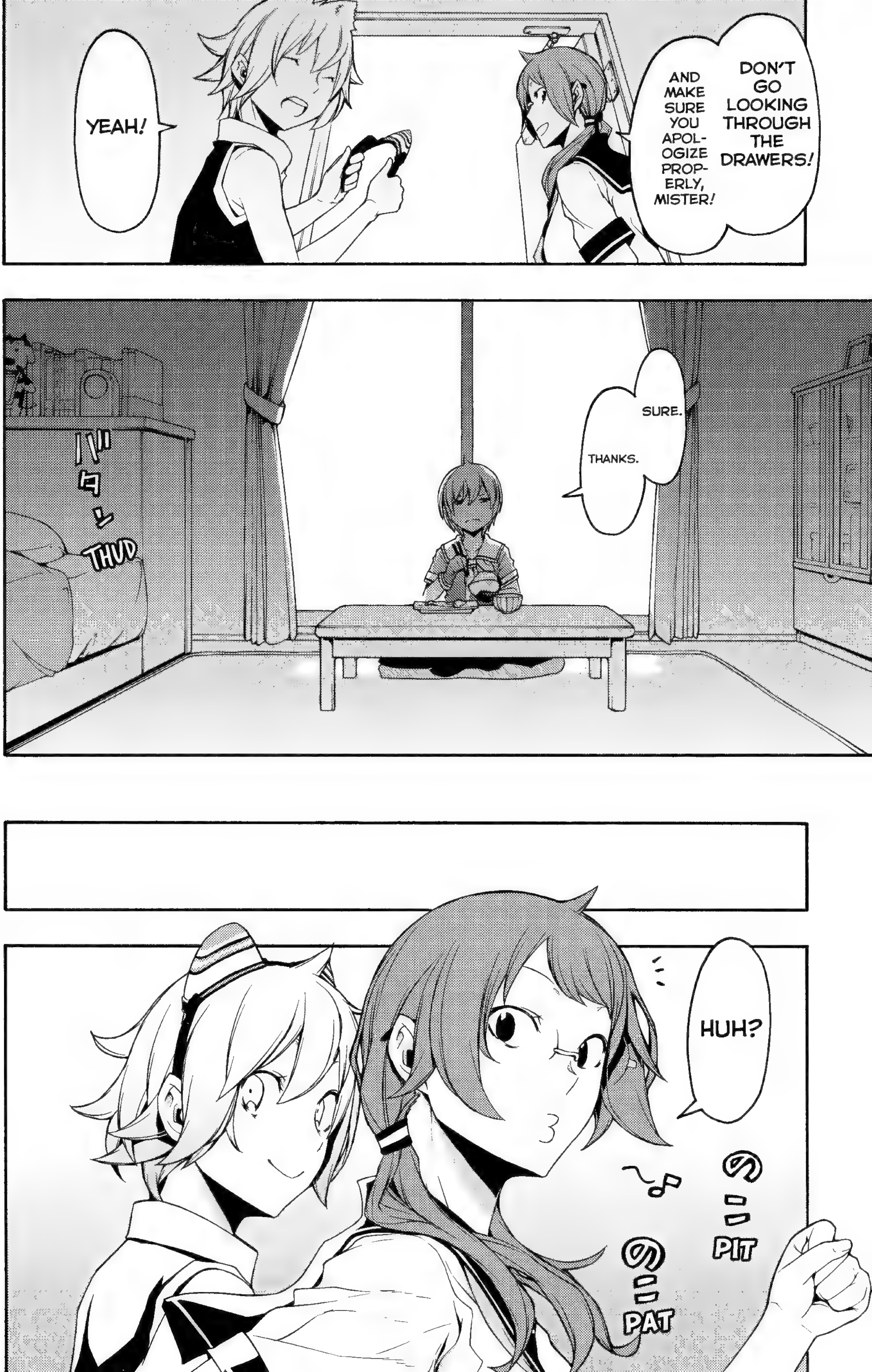

THERE!
I'LL TAKE YOUR DOLL, AND YOU TAKE MINE!
MRR.
ISN'T THAT CONFUSING?
NO WAY!
LET'S GO WITH THIS!
WELL, ALL RIGHT.
AAH, WHAT A CUTIE.
I COULD JUST EAT YOU UP...
DON'T SWALLOW ME WHOLE!
WHAT ARE YOU, A SNAKE?!
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T EAT YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CLIMB ALL OVER...
おう
WRIG
おう
WRIG

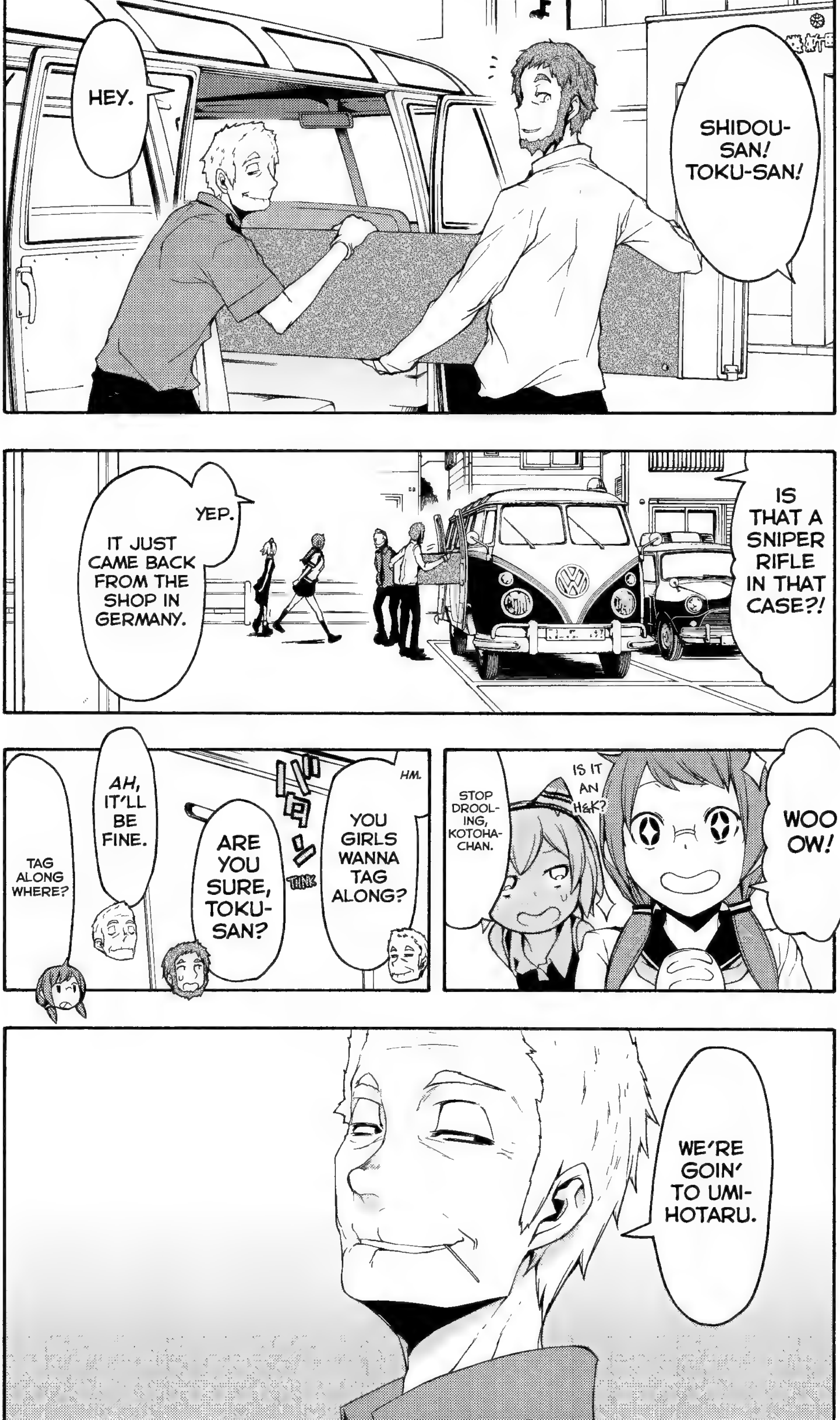

...ME.
AAH! THAT STARTLED ME!
OH, NO! I LEFT THE WINDOW OPEN!
HE'LL SNEAK IN THROUGH ANY CRACK HE CAN FIND!
ガラ ピシャ
WHACK
THAK
ボゴッ
SLIDE
GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, WILL YA...?
UGH...
HUH?
ジュー
SIZZZ
THAT'S SOME GOOD STUFF!
ぱく ぱく
NOM NOM
WELL, IT IS HOKKAIDOAN SALMON.
I MADE HAM AND EGGS, TOO.

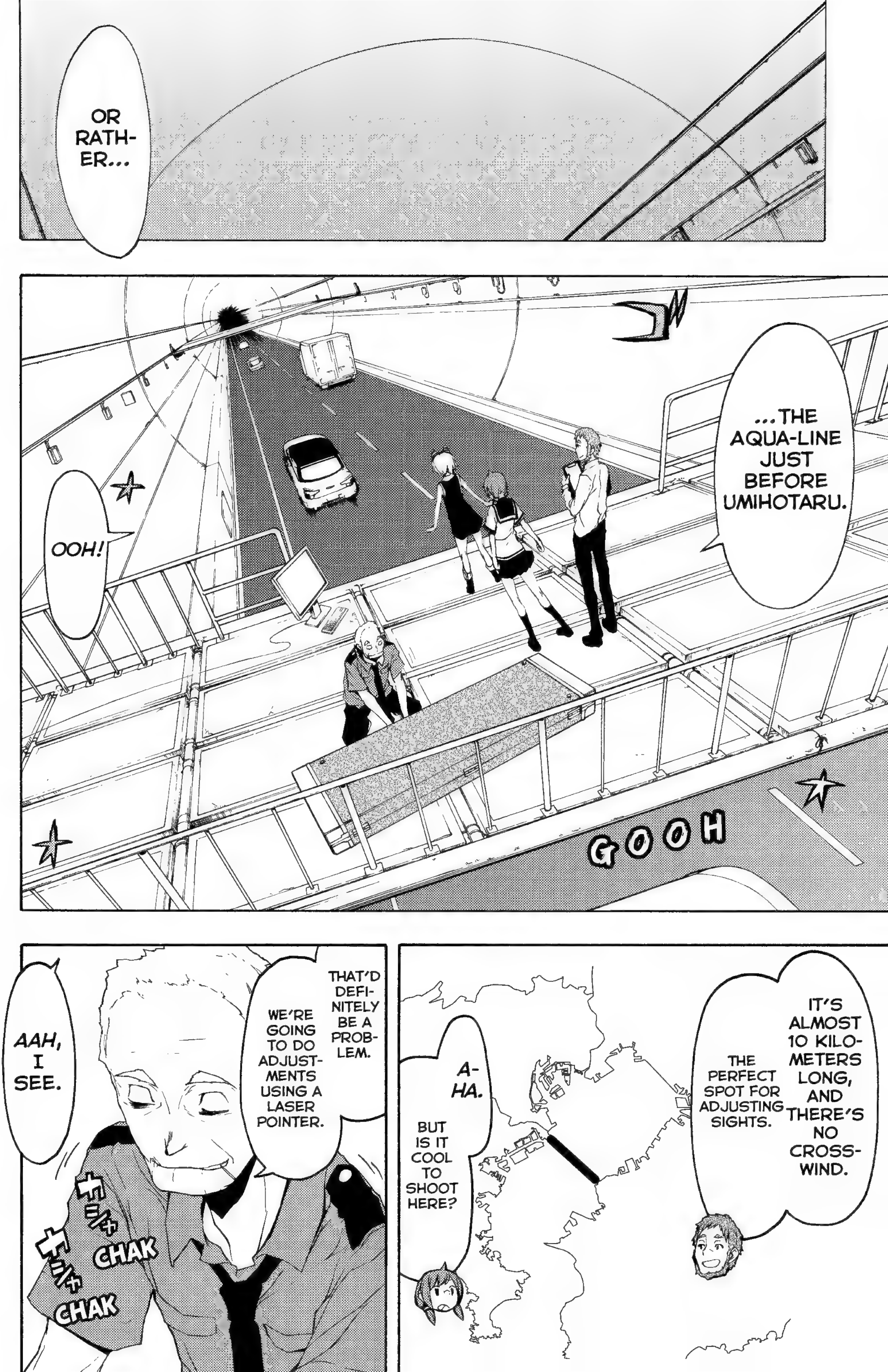

I GOT INTO A LITTLE SQUABBLE WITH MARIABELL THIS MORNING.
SHE RAN OFF SOMEWHERE WITHOUT MAKING BREAKFAST.
WELL, THAT'S RARE.
I GUESS THAT EXPLAINS WHY SHE WAS JOGGING ALONE.
HERE.
おむすび
SHE'S PROBABLY STILL ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.
TAKE THESE AND GO APOLOGIZE TO HER.
おむすび

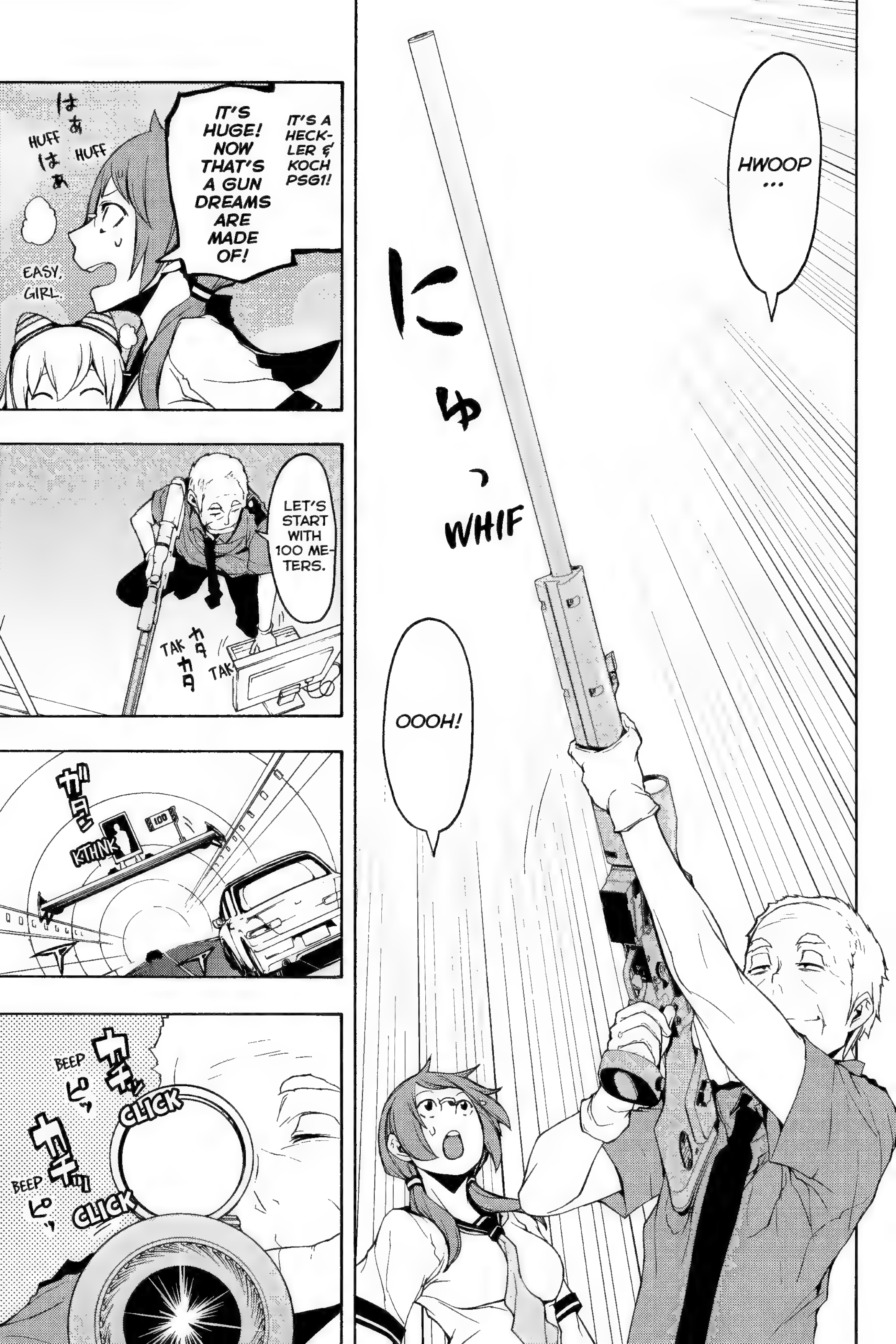
Box: Riceballs

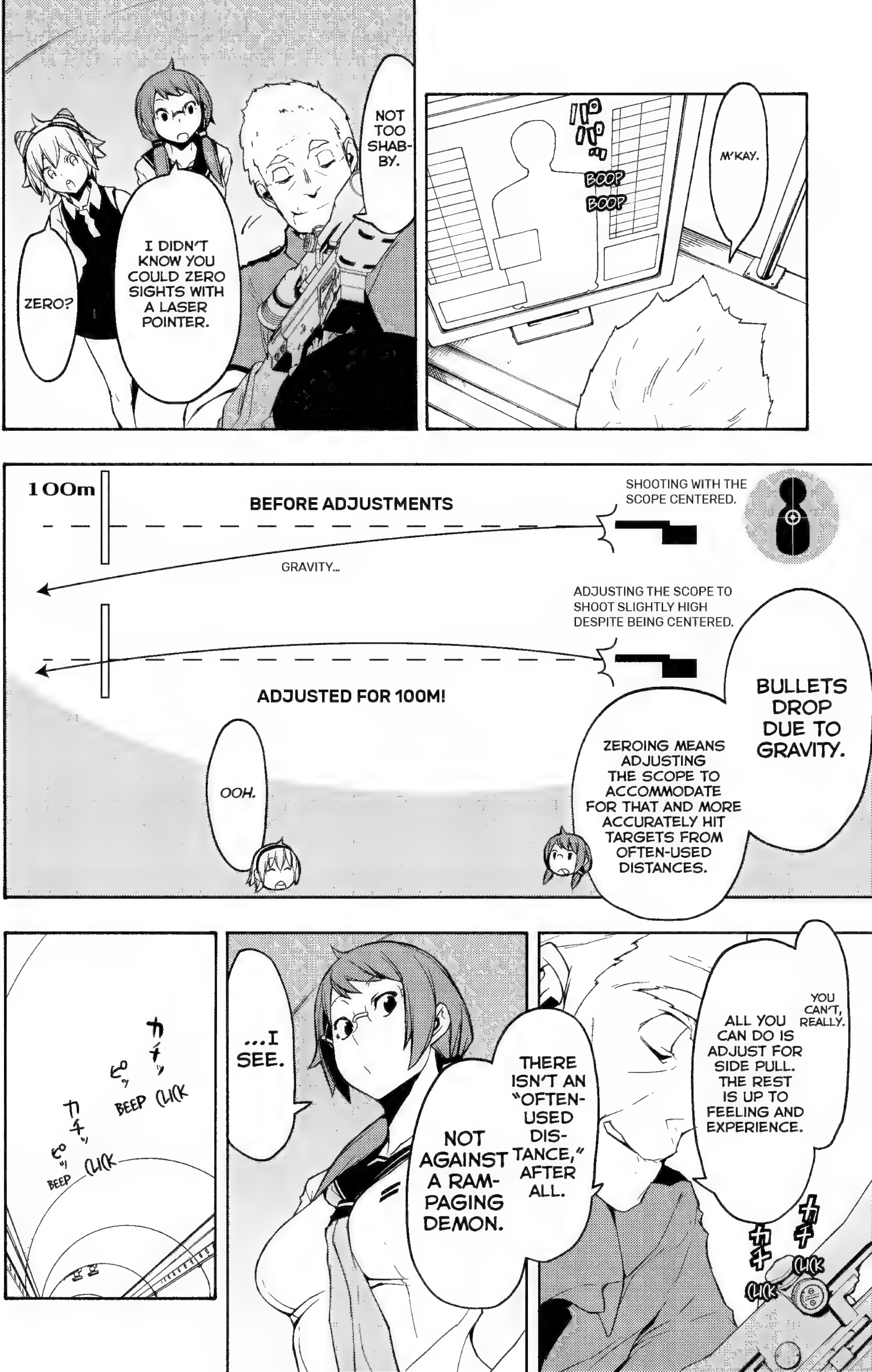

SURE.
SORRY FER THE TROUBLE.
AL-RIGHTY, LET'S GO FOR A WALK TO WORK OFF BREAKFAST, AO.
EVEN THOUGH WE WENT RUNNING EARLIER?
ALL THE MORE REASON!
WE'RE JUST WANDERING AROUND AT THIS POINT...
OKAY. PLEASE PUT THE KEY IN THE MAILBOX WHEN YOU LEAVE, YUHI-SAN.

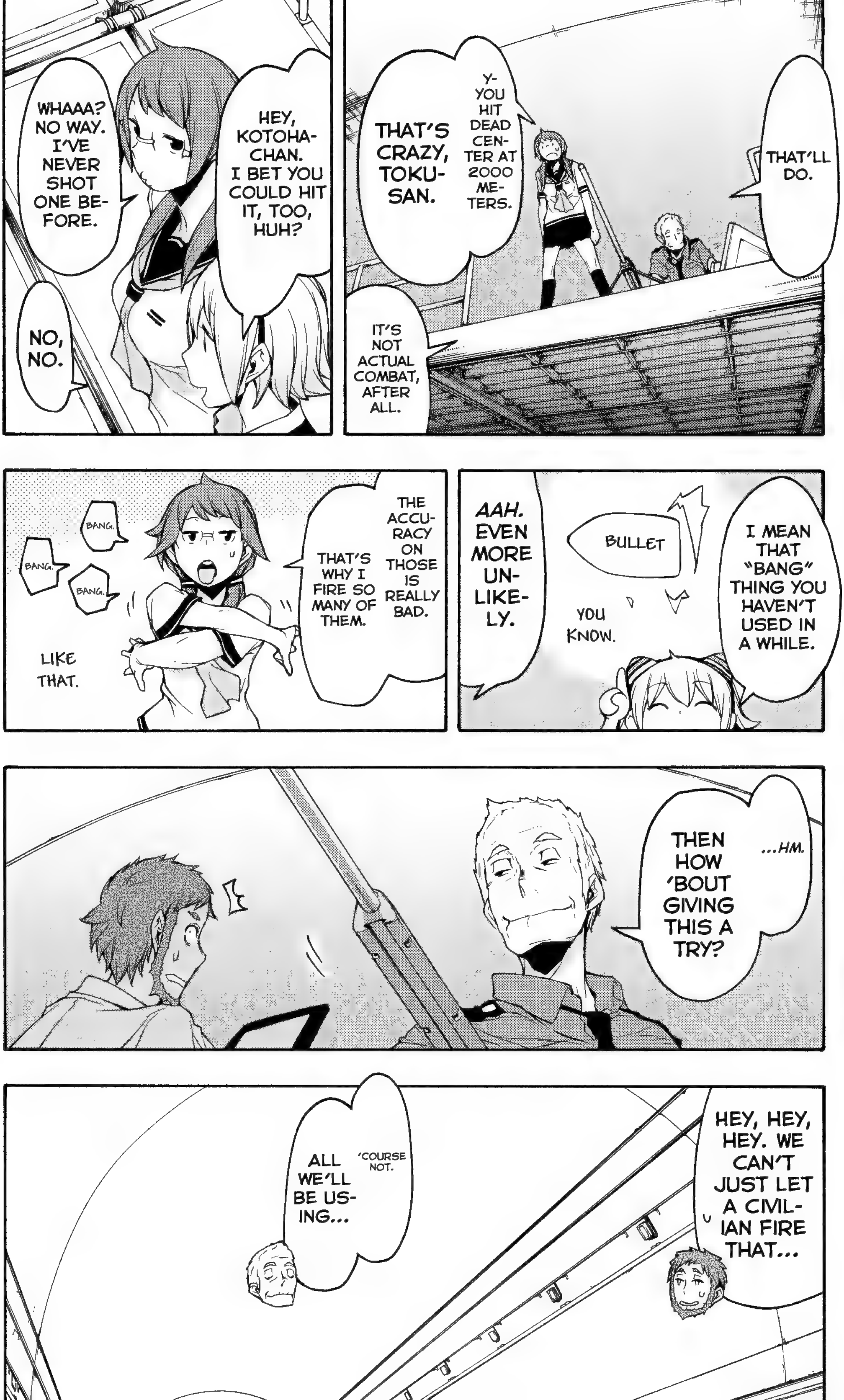

DON'T GO LOOKING THROUGH THE DRAWERS!
AND MAKE SURE YOU APOLOGIZE PROPERLY, MISTER!
YEAH!
バタン
THUD
SURE.
THANKS.
HUH?
~♪
のこ
PIT
のこ
PAT

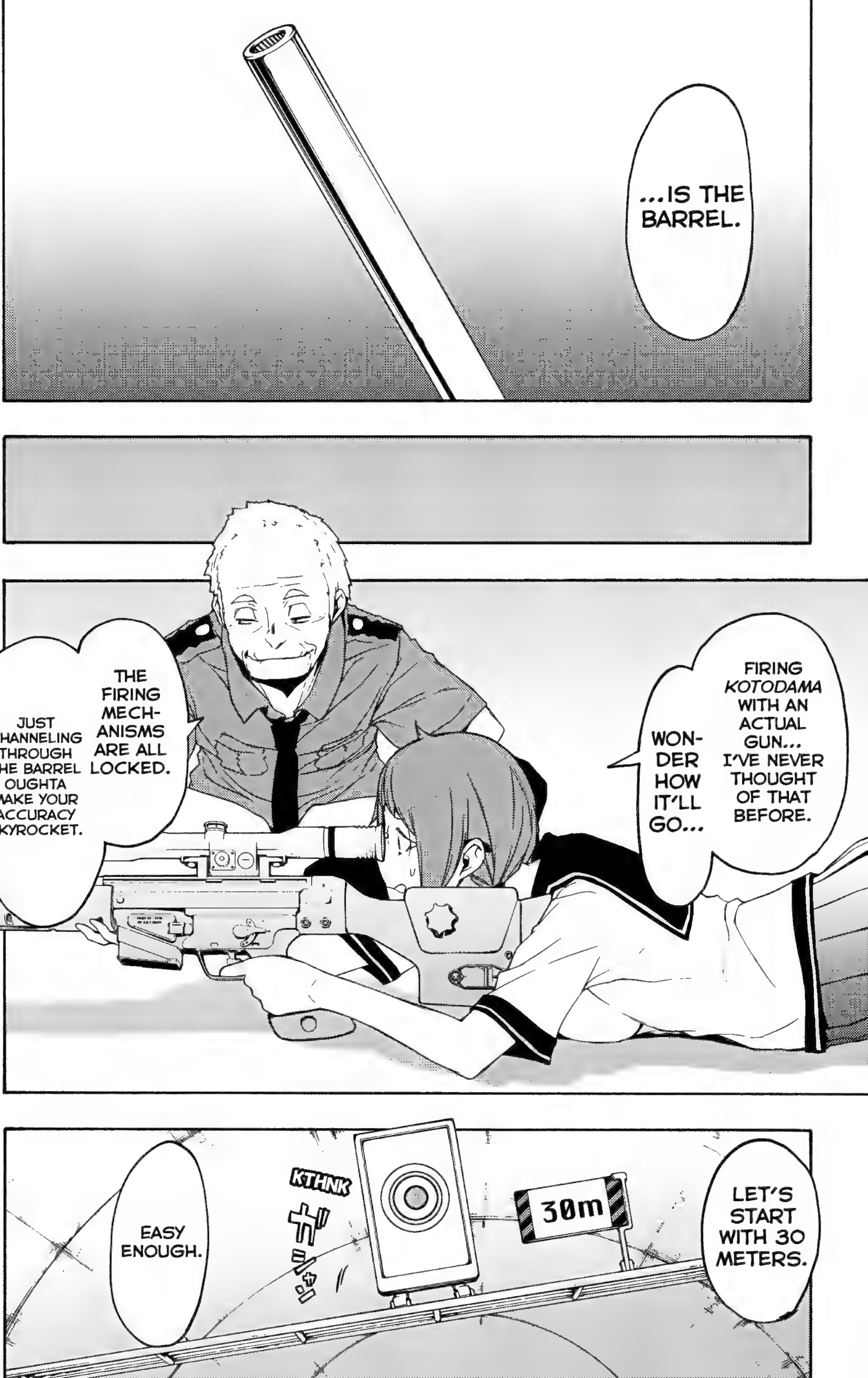

SHIDOU-SAN! TOKU-SAN!
HEY.
IS THAT A SNIPER RIFLE IN THAT CASE?!
YEP.
IT JUST CAME BACK FROM THE SHOP IN GERMANY.
WOOOW!
IS IT AN H&K?
STOP DROOLING, KOTOHA-CHAN.
HM.
YOU GIRLS WANNA TAG ALONG?
バタン
THINK
ARE YOU SURE, TOKU-SAN?
AH, IT'LL BE FINE.
TAG ALONG WHERE?
WE'RE GOIN' TO UMI-HOTARU.

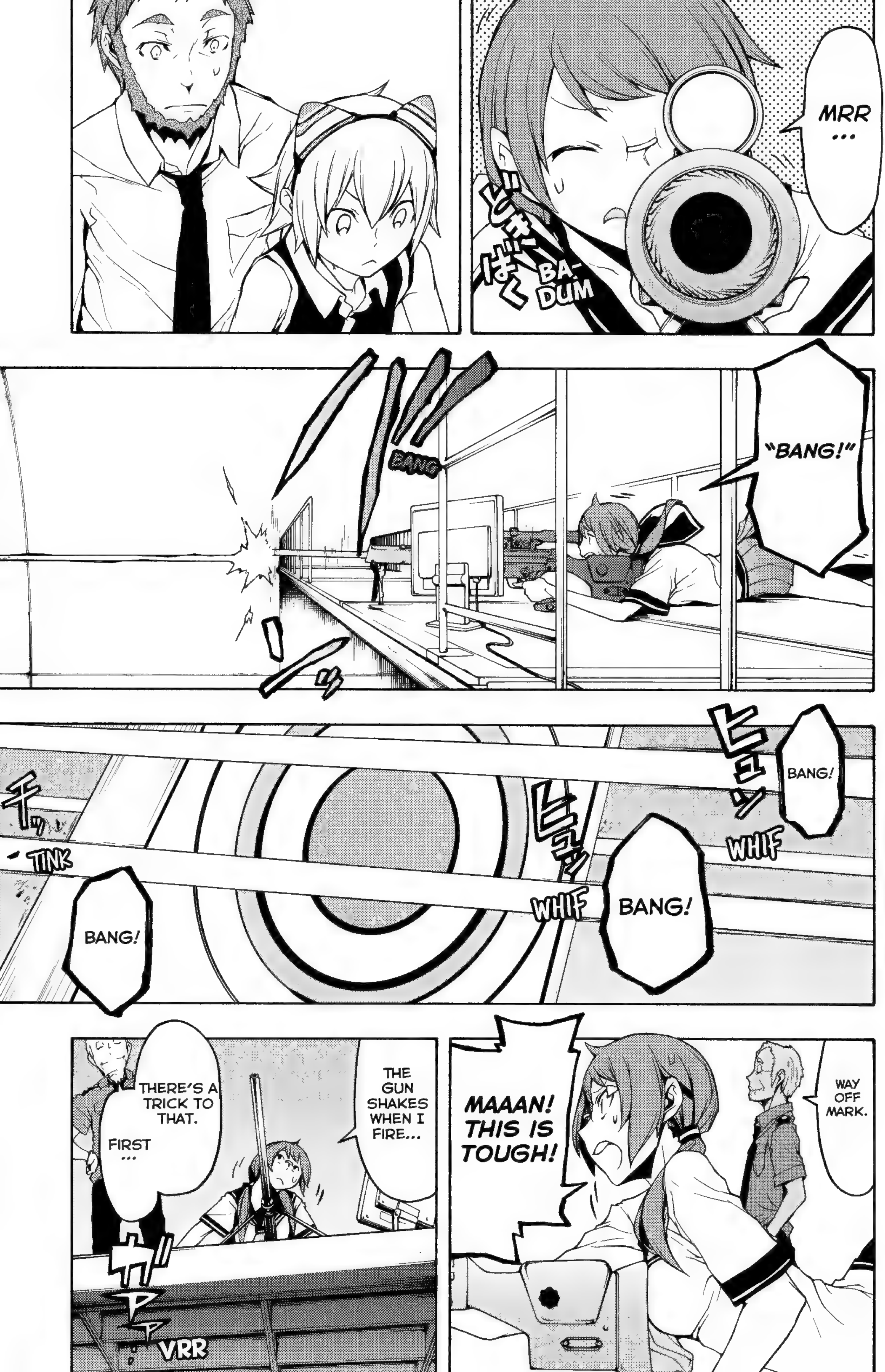

OR RATHER...
...THE AQUA-LINE JUST BEFORE UMIHOTARU.
OOH!
GOOH
IT'S ALMOST 10 KILOMETERS LONG, AND THERE'S NO CROSSWIND.
THE PERFECT SPOT FOR ADJUSTING SIGHTS.
A-HA.
BUT IS IT COOL TO SHOOT HERE?
THAT'D DEFINITELY BE A PROBLEM.
WE'RE GOING TO DO ADJUSTMENTS USING A LASER POINTER.
AAH, I SEE.
CHAK
CHAK

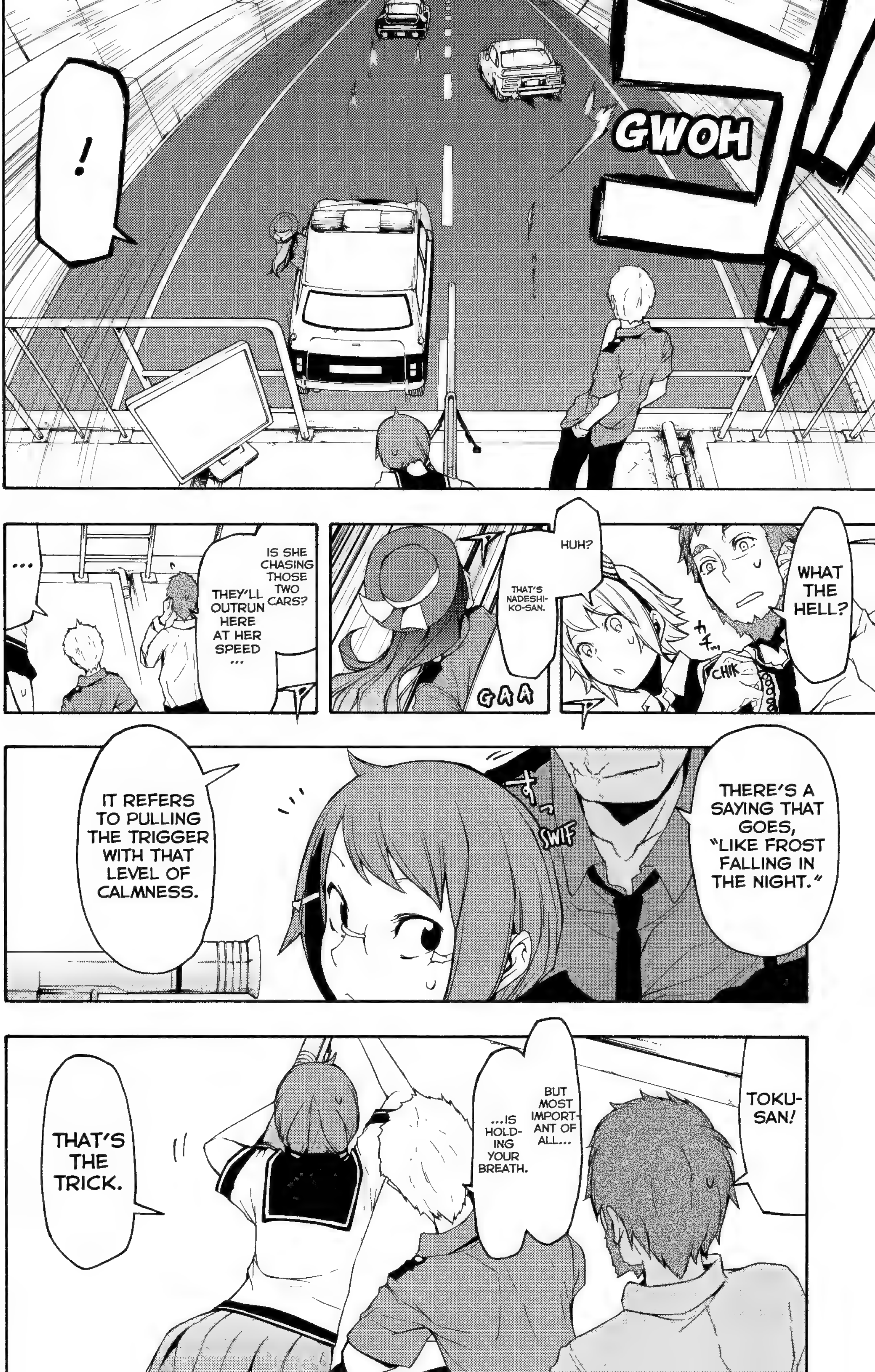

HWOOP...
にゅっ
WHIF
OOOH!
IT'S A HECKLER & KOCH PSG1!
IT'S HUGE! NOW THAT'S A GUN DREAMS ARE MADE OF!
はぁ はぁ
HUFF HUFF
EASY, GIRL.
LET'S START WITH 100 METERS.
カタ カタ
TAK TAK
ガタン
KTHNK
100
カキッ
CLICK
ピッ
BEEP
カキッ
CLICK
ピッ
BEEP

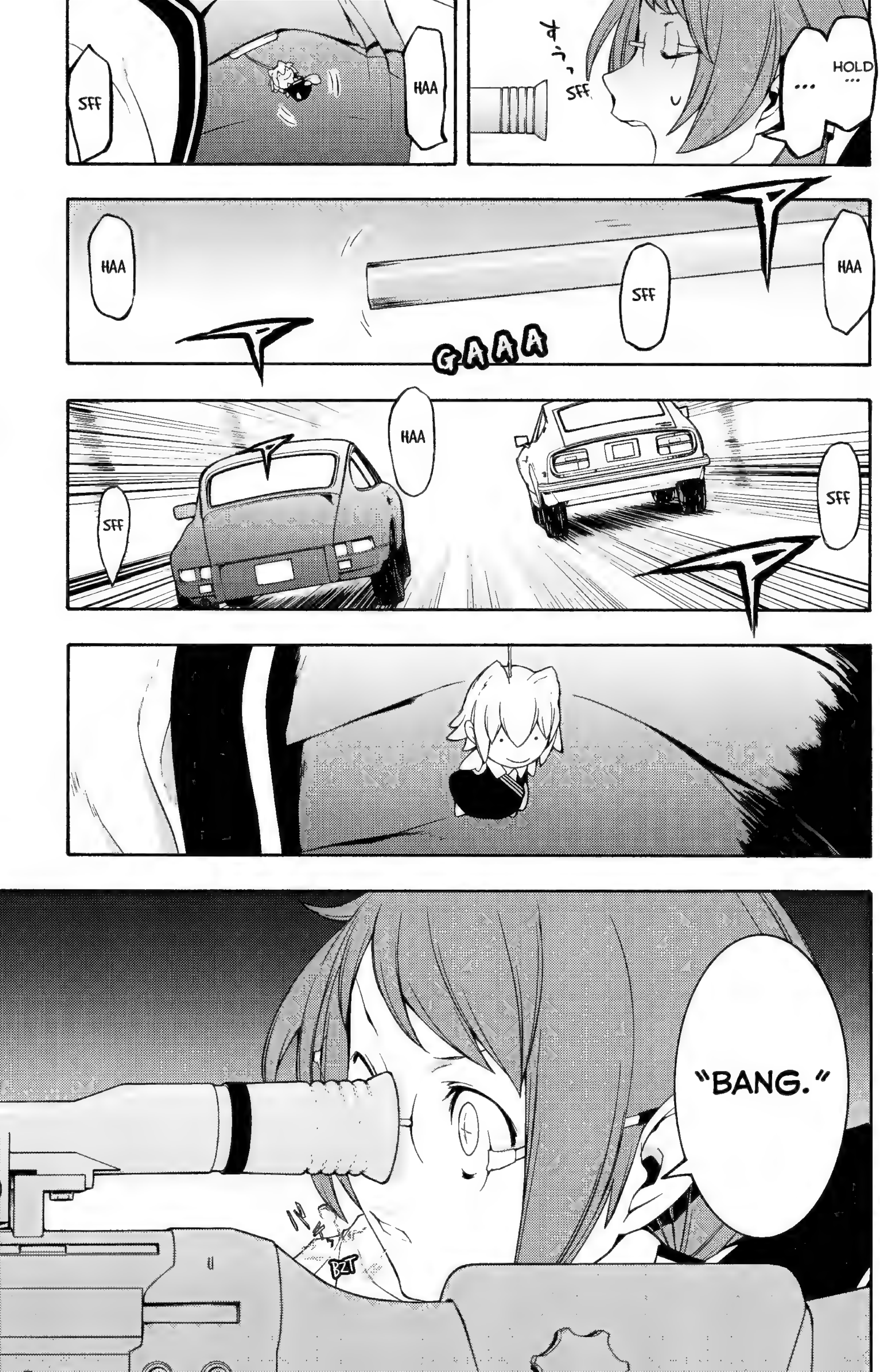

M'KAY.
パパ…
BOOP BOOP
NOT TOO SHABBY.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD ZERO SIGHTS WITH A LASER POINTER.
ZERO?
100m
BEFORE ADJUSTMENTS
SHOOTING WITH THE SCOPE CENTERED.
GRAVITY...
ADJUSTING THE SCOPE TO SHOOT SLIGHTLY HIGH DESPITE BEING CENTERED.
ADJUSTED FOR 100M!
BULLETS DROP DUE TO GRAVITY.
ZEROING MEANS ADJUSTING THE SCOPE TO ACCOMMODATE FOR THAT AND MORE ACCURATELY HIT TARGETS FROM OFTEN-USED DISTANCES.
OOH.
YOU CAN'T, REALLY.
ALL YOU CAN DO IS ADJUST FOR SIDE PULL. THE REST IS UP TO FEELING AND EXPERIENCE.
カチ カチ
CLICK CLICK
THERE ISN'T AN "OFTEN-USED DISTANCE," AFTER ALL.
NOT AGAINST A RAMPAGING DEMON.
...I SEE.
カチッ ピッ
BEEP CLICK
カチッ ピッ
BEEP CLICK

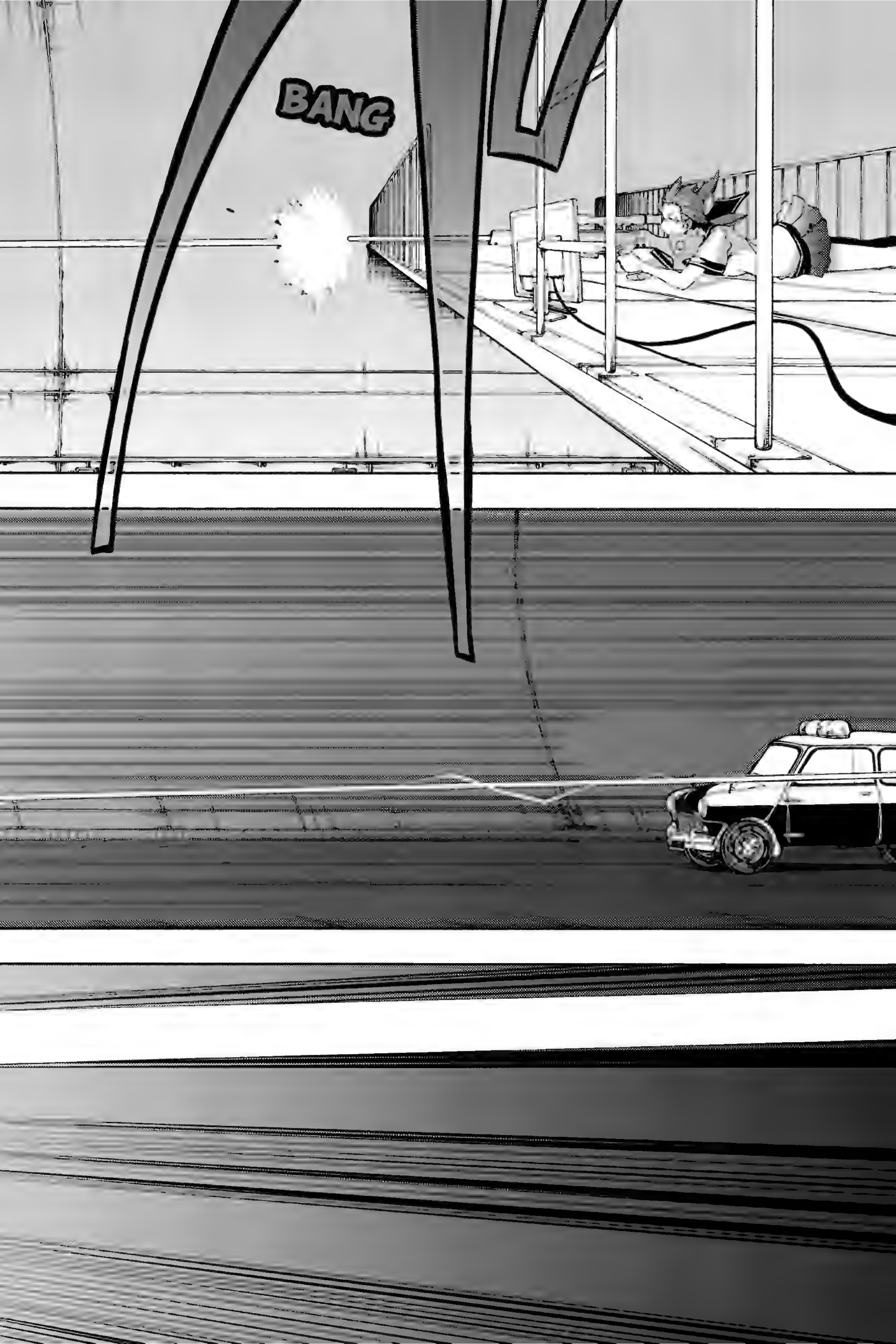

THAT'LL DO.
Y-YOU HIT DEAD CENTER AT 2000 METERS.
THAT'S CRAZY, TOKU-SAN.
IT'S NOT ACTUAL COMBAT, AFTER ALL.
HEY, KOTOHA-CHAN. I BET YOU COULD HIT IT, TOO, HUH?
WHAAA? NO WAY. I'VE NEVER SHOT ONE BEFORE.
NO, NO.
I MEAN THAT "BANG" THING YOU HAVEN'T USED IN A WHILE.
BULLET
YOU KNOW.
AAH. EVEN MORE UNLIKELY.
THE ACCURACY ON THOSE IS REALLY BAD.
THAT'S WHY I FIRE SO MANY OF THEM.
BANG.
BANG.
BANG.
LIKE THAT.
...HM.
THEN HOW 'BOUT GIVING THIS A TRY?
HEY, HEY, HEY. WE CAN'T JUST LET A CIVILIAN FIRE THAT...
'COURSE NOT.
ALL WE'LL BE USING...

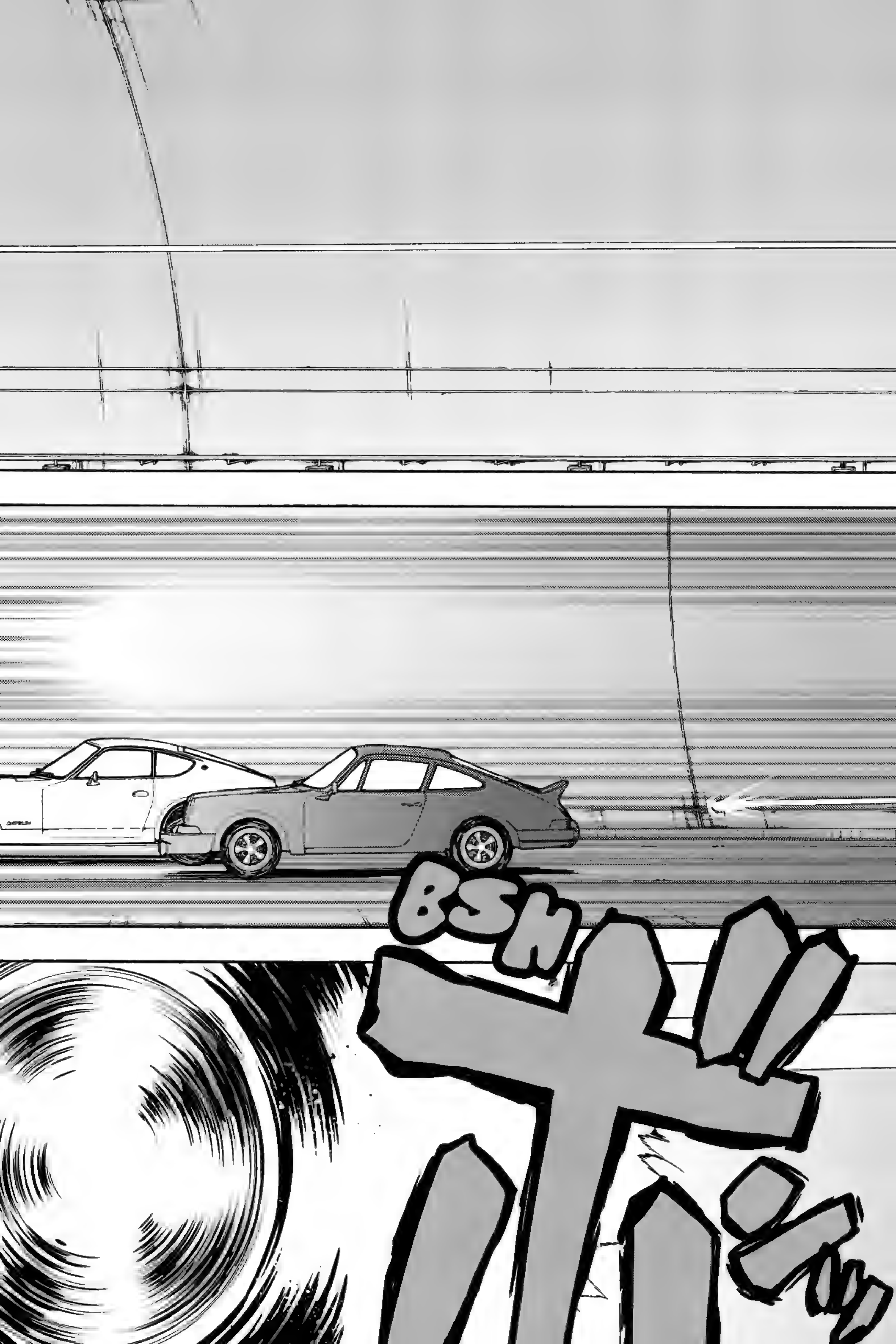

...IS THE BARREL.
FIRING *KOTODAMA* WITH AN ACTUAL GUN... I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT BEFORE.
WONDER HOW IT'LL GO...
THE FIRING MECHANISMS ARE ALL LOCKED.
JUST CHANNELING THROUGH THE BARREL OUGHTA MAKE YOUR ACCURACY SKYROCKET.
LET'S START WITH 30 METERS.
30m
KTHNK
ガシャン
EASY ENOUGH.

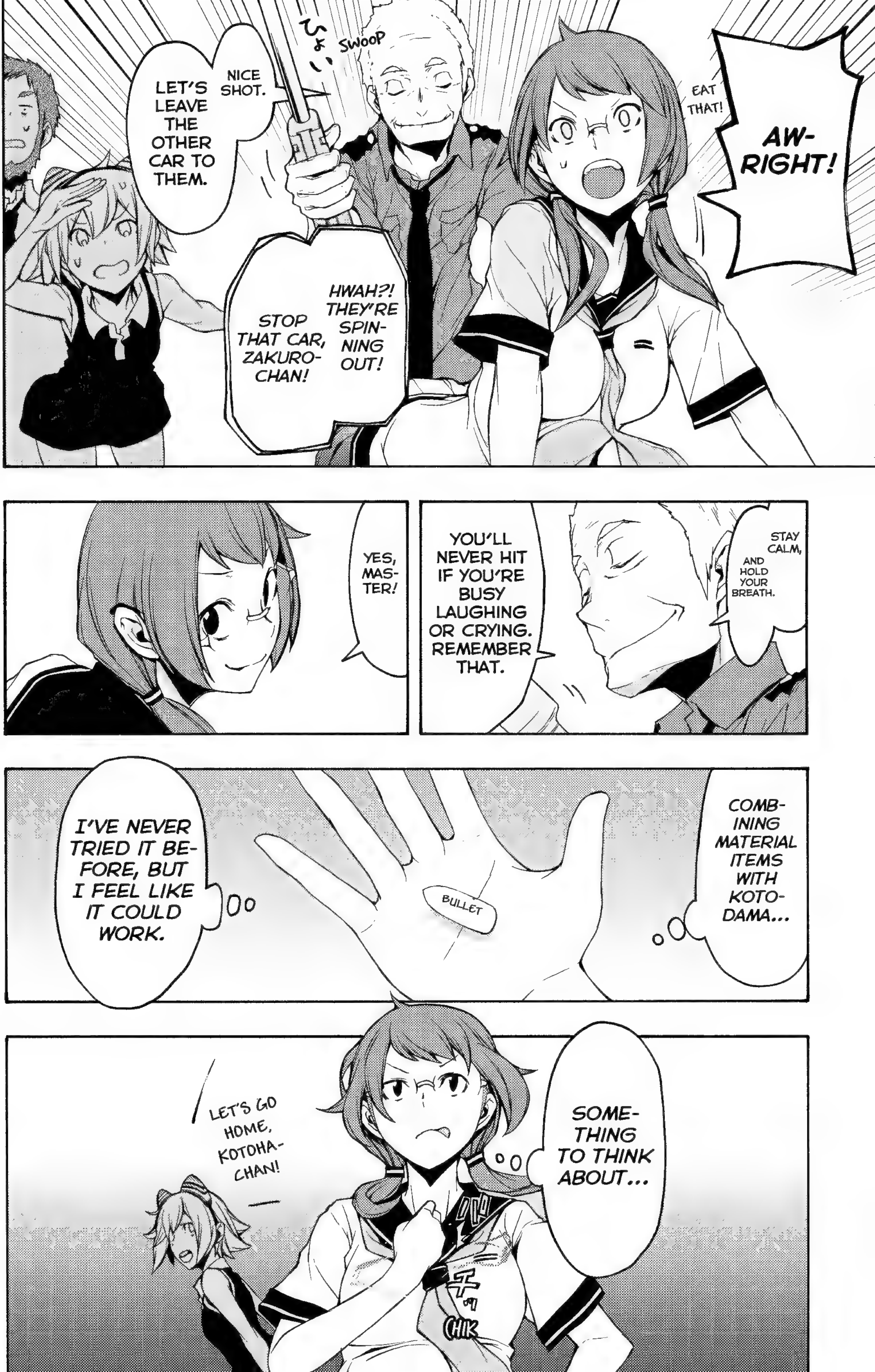

MRR ...
どきーばく
BA-DUM
"BANG!"
BANG
ヒュン
WHIF
BANG!
ヒュン
WHIF
BANG!
チッ
TINK
BANG!
WAY OFF MARK.
MAAAN! THIS IS TOUGH!
THE GUN SHAKES WHEN I FIRE...
THERE'S A TRICK TO THAT.
FIRST ...
ヴァァ
VRR

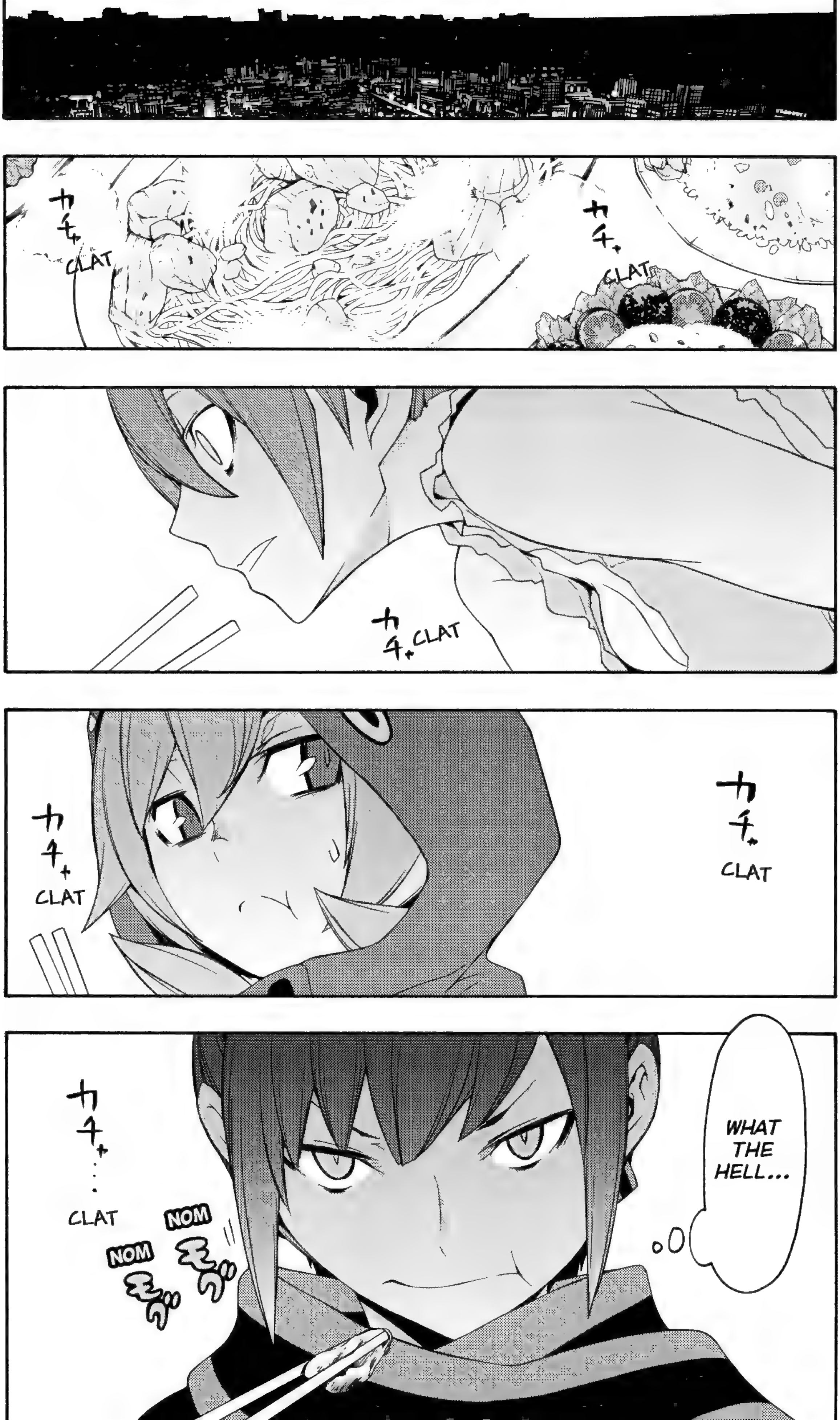

GWOH
!
WHAT THE HELL?
カチッ
CHIK
HUH?
THAT'S NADESHIKO-SAN.
GAA
IS SHE CHASING THOSE TWO CARS?
THEY'LL OUTRUN HERE AT HER SPEED...
...
THERE'S A SAYING THAT GOES, "LIKE FROST FALLING IN THE NIGHT."
すっ
SWIF
IT REFERS TO PULLING THE TRIGGER WITH THAT LEVEL OF CALMNESS.
TOKU-SAN!
BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL...
...IS HOLDING YOUR BREATH.
THAT'S THE TRICK.

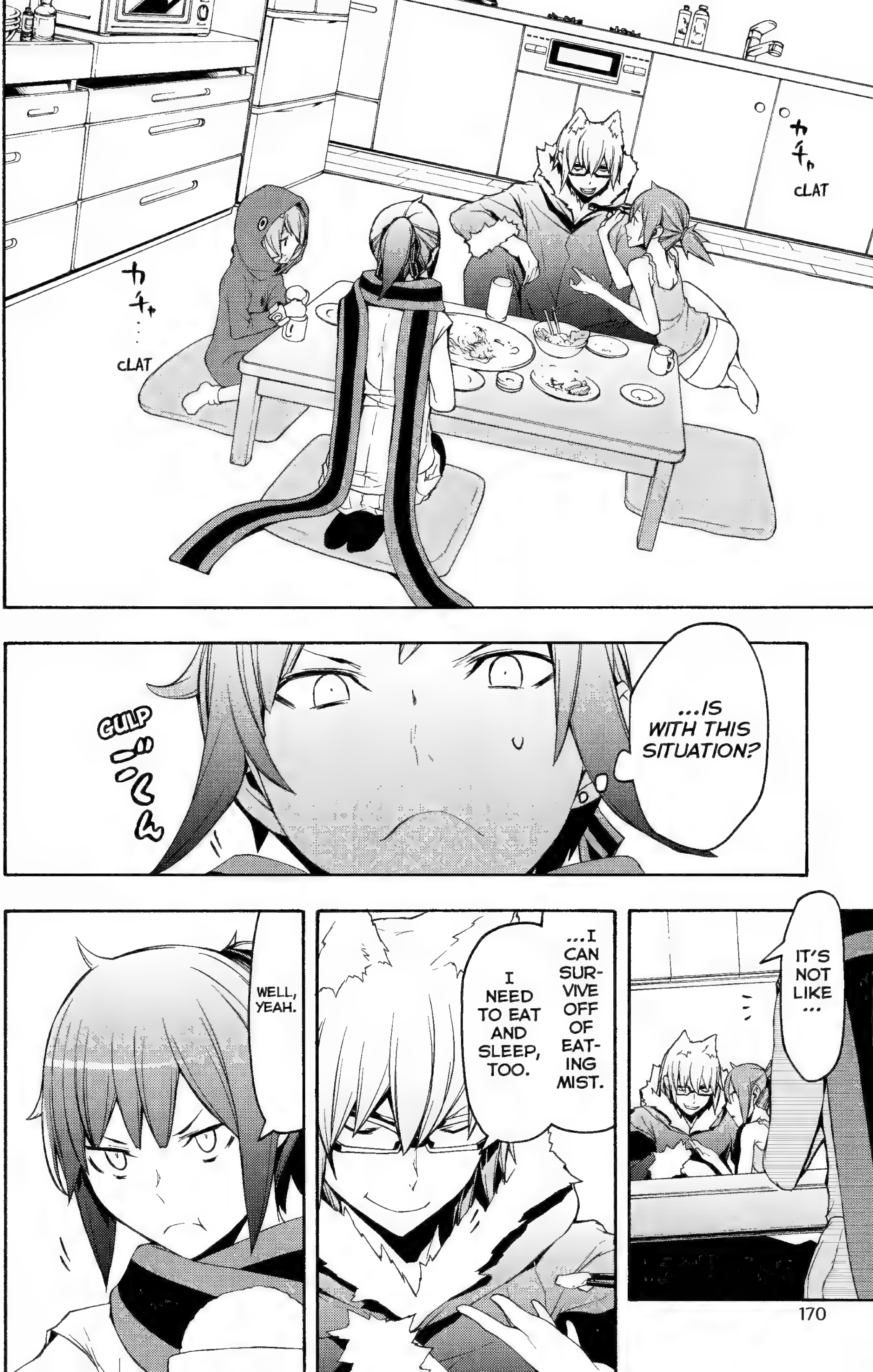

すぅ
SFF
HOLD ...
...
HAA
SFF
HAA
SFF
HAA
GAAA
SFF
HAA
SFF
"BANG."
BZT

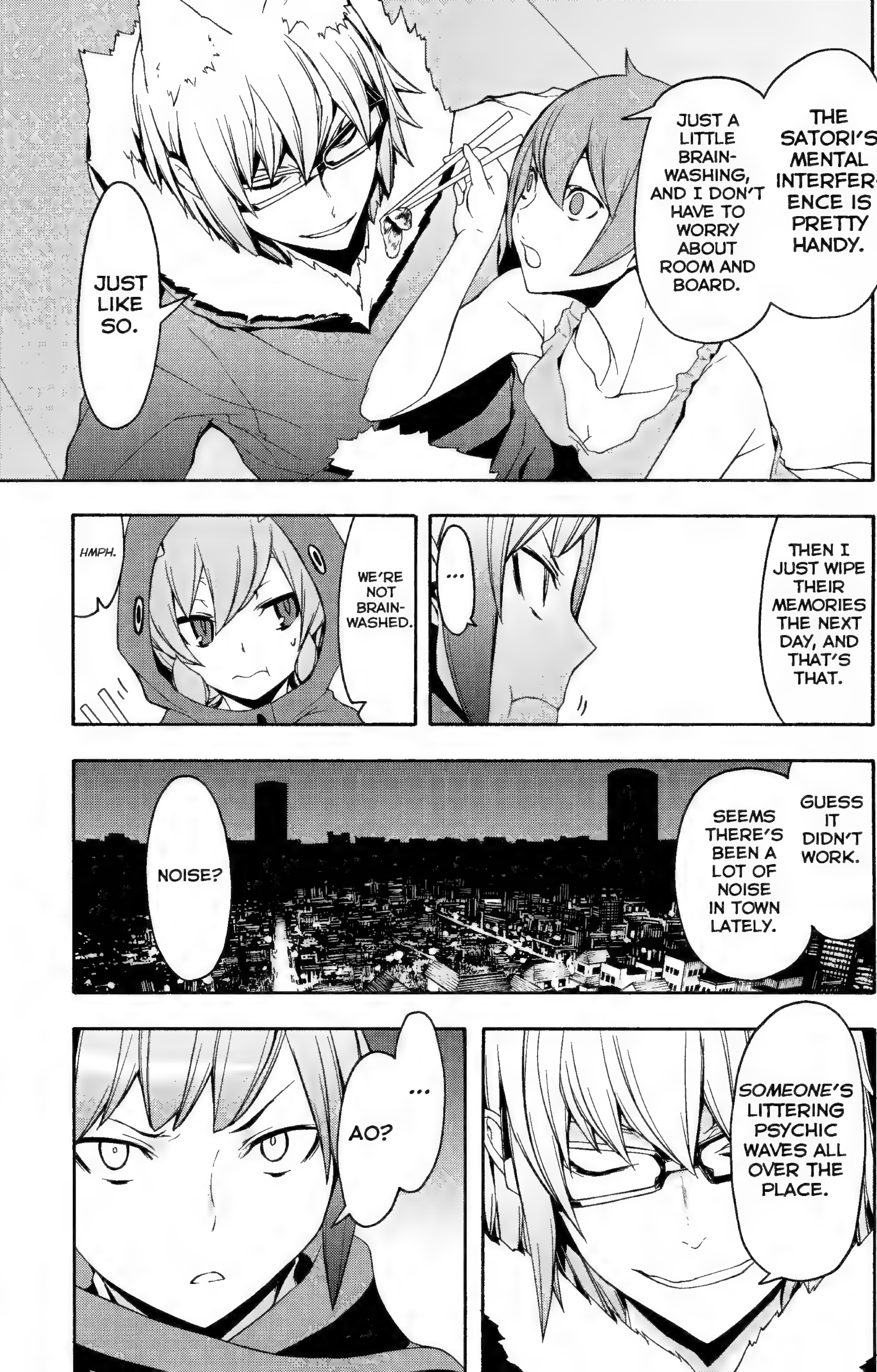

BANG

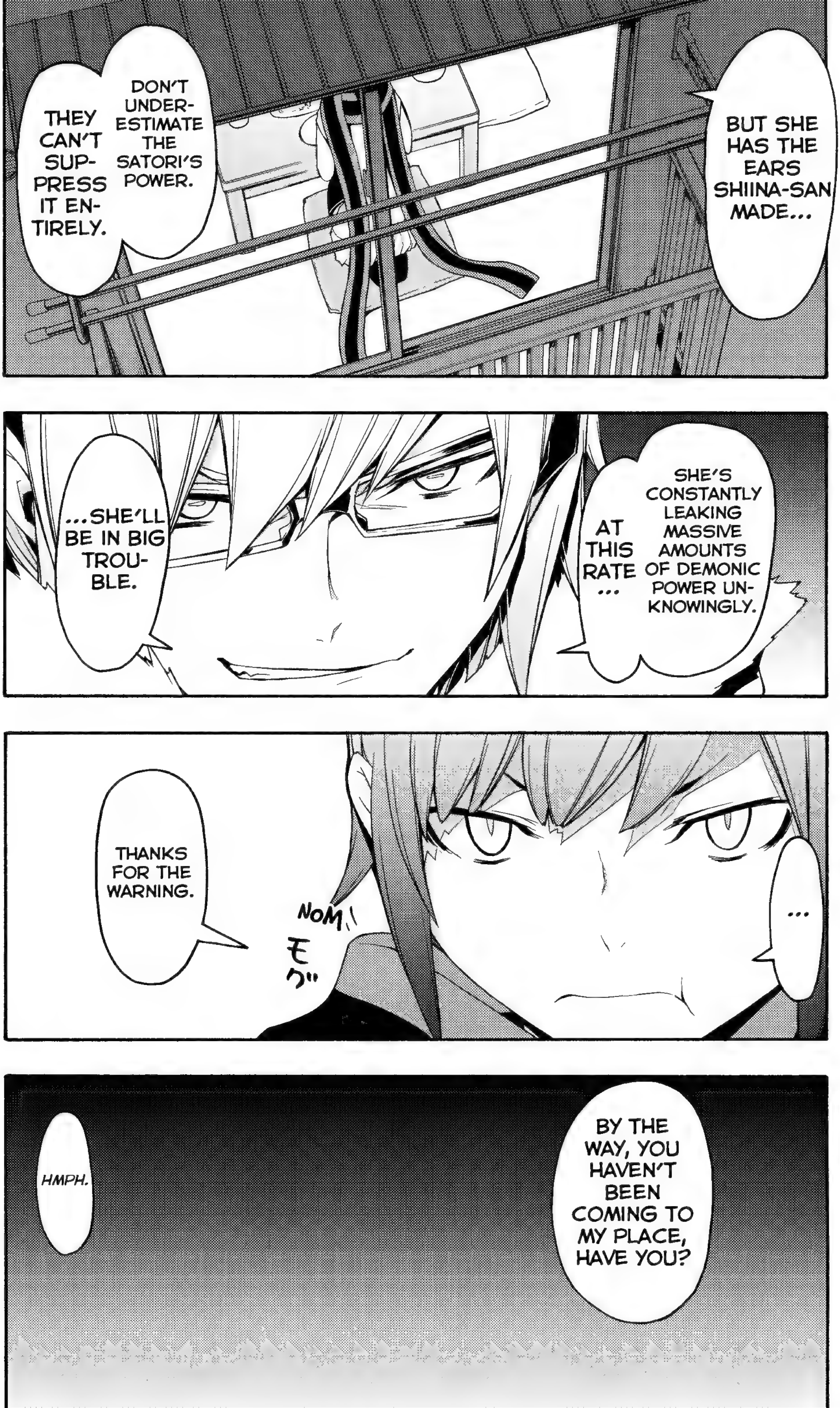

BSH
ド

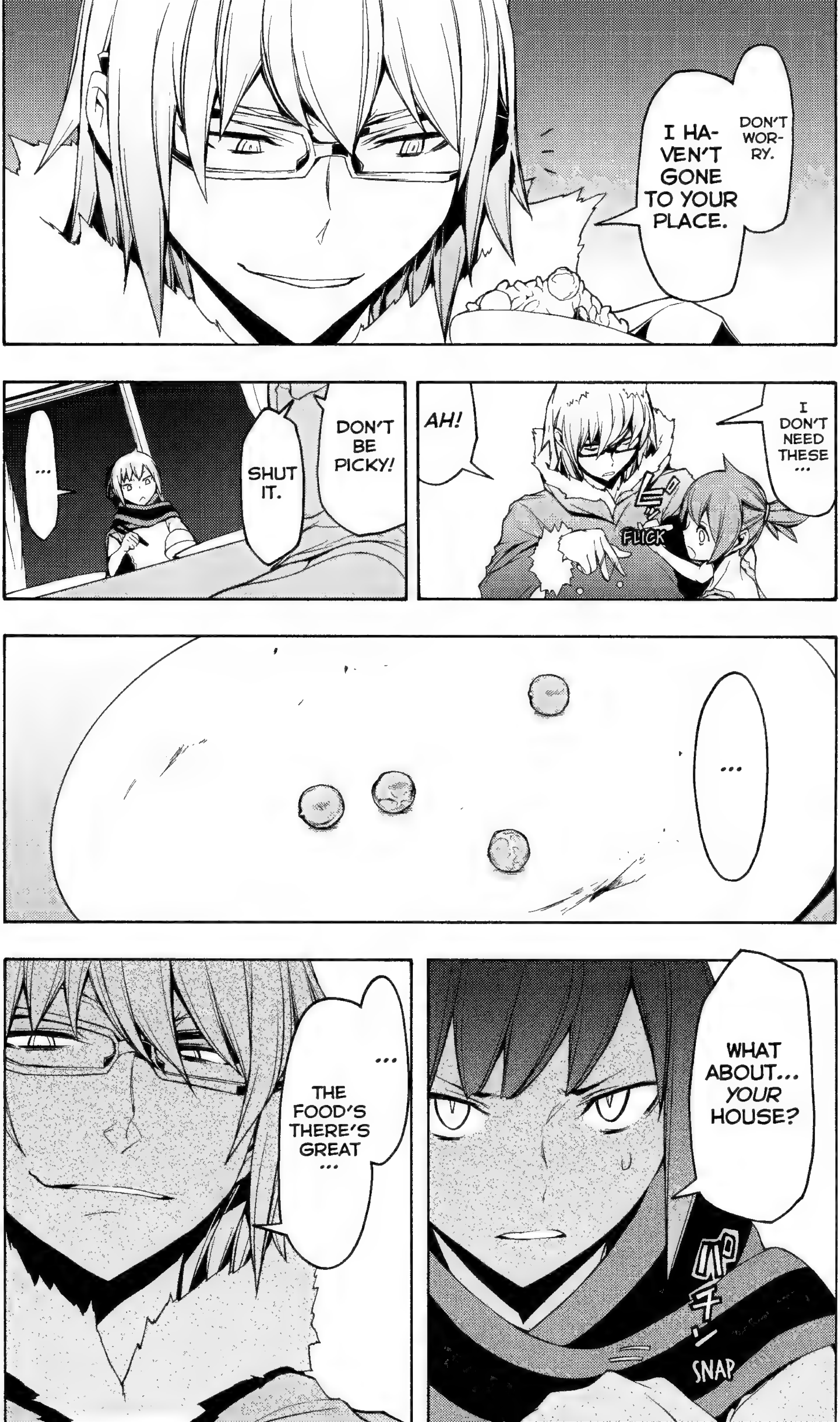

AW-RIGHT!
EAT THAT!
ひょい SWOOP
NICE SHOT.
LET'S LEAVE THE OTHER CAR TO THEM.
HWAH?! THEY'RE SPINNING OUT!
STOP THAT CAR, ZAKURO-CHAN!
STAY CALM, AND HOLD YOUR BREATH.
YOU'LL NEVER HIT IF YOU'RE BUSY LAUGHING OR CRYING. REMEMBER THAT.
YES, MASTER!
COMBINING MATERIAL ITEMS WITH KOTODAMA...
BULLET
I'VE NEVER TRIED IT BEFORE, BUT I FEEL LIKE IT COULD WORK.
SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...
LET'S GO HOME, KOTOHA-CHAN!
チッ CHIK

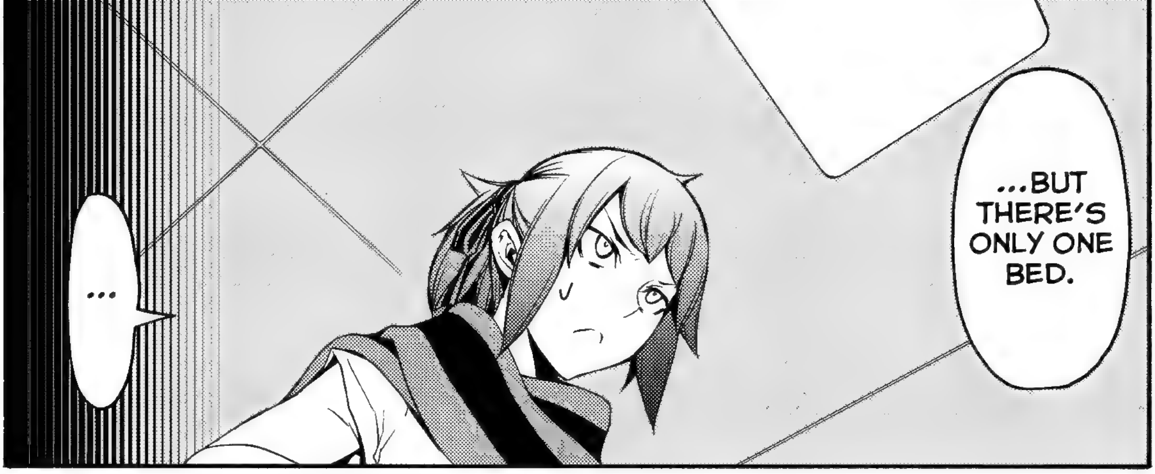

カチャ CLAT
カチャ CLAT
カチャ CLAT
カチャ CLAT
カチャ CLAT
WHAT THE HELL...
NOM モグ
NOM モグ
カチャ... CLAT

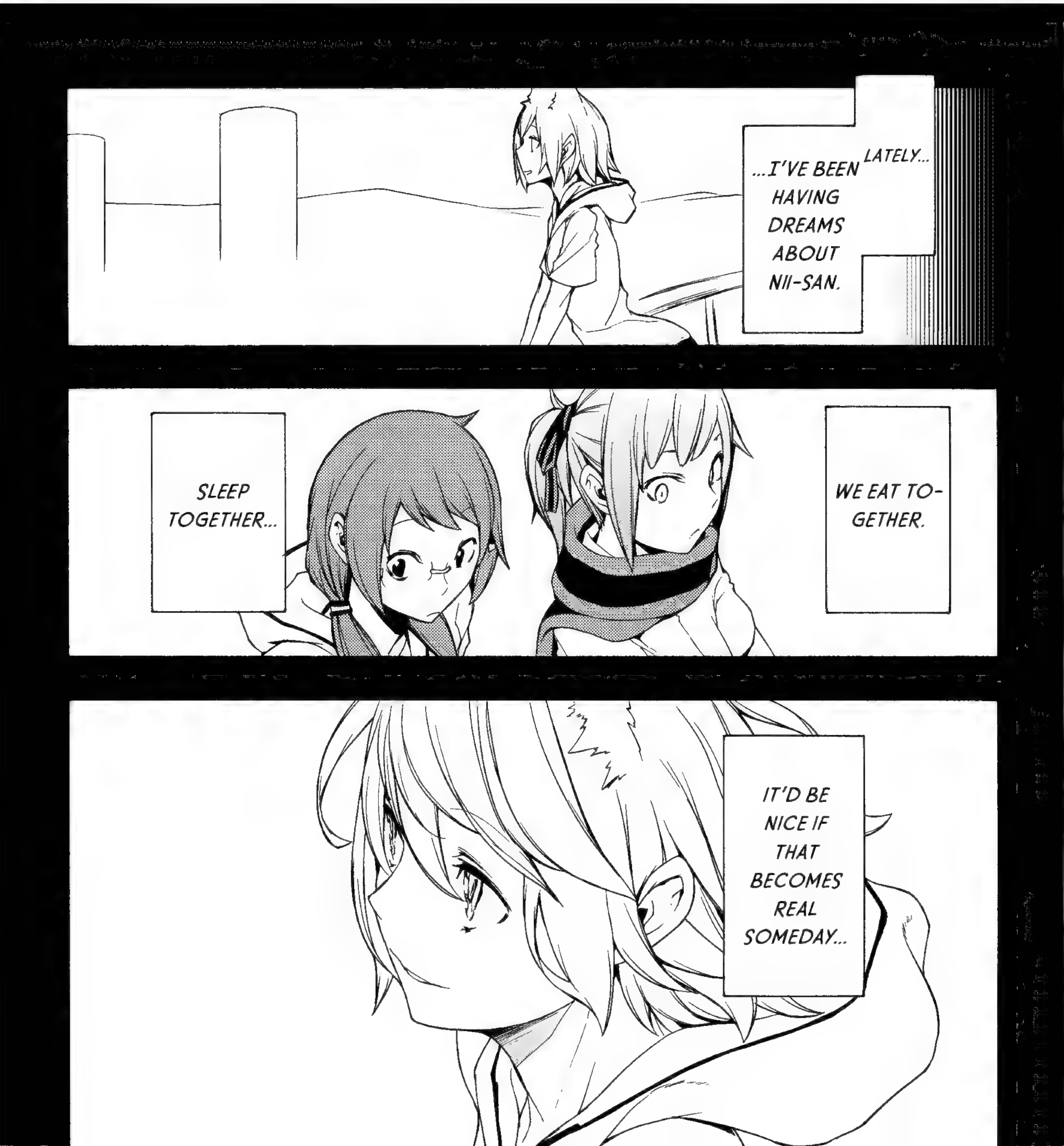

カチャ
CLAT
カチャ…
CLAT
…IS WITH THIS SITUATION?
GULP
ごくん
IT'S NOT LIKE …
…I CAN SURVIVE OFF OF EATING MIST.
I NEED TO EAT AND SLEEP, TOO.
WELL, YEAH.

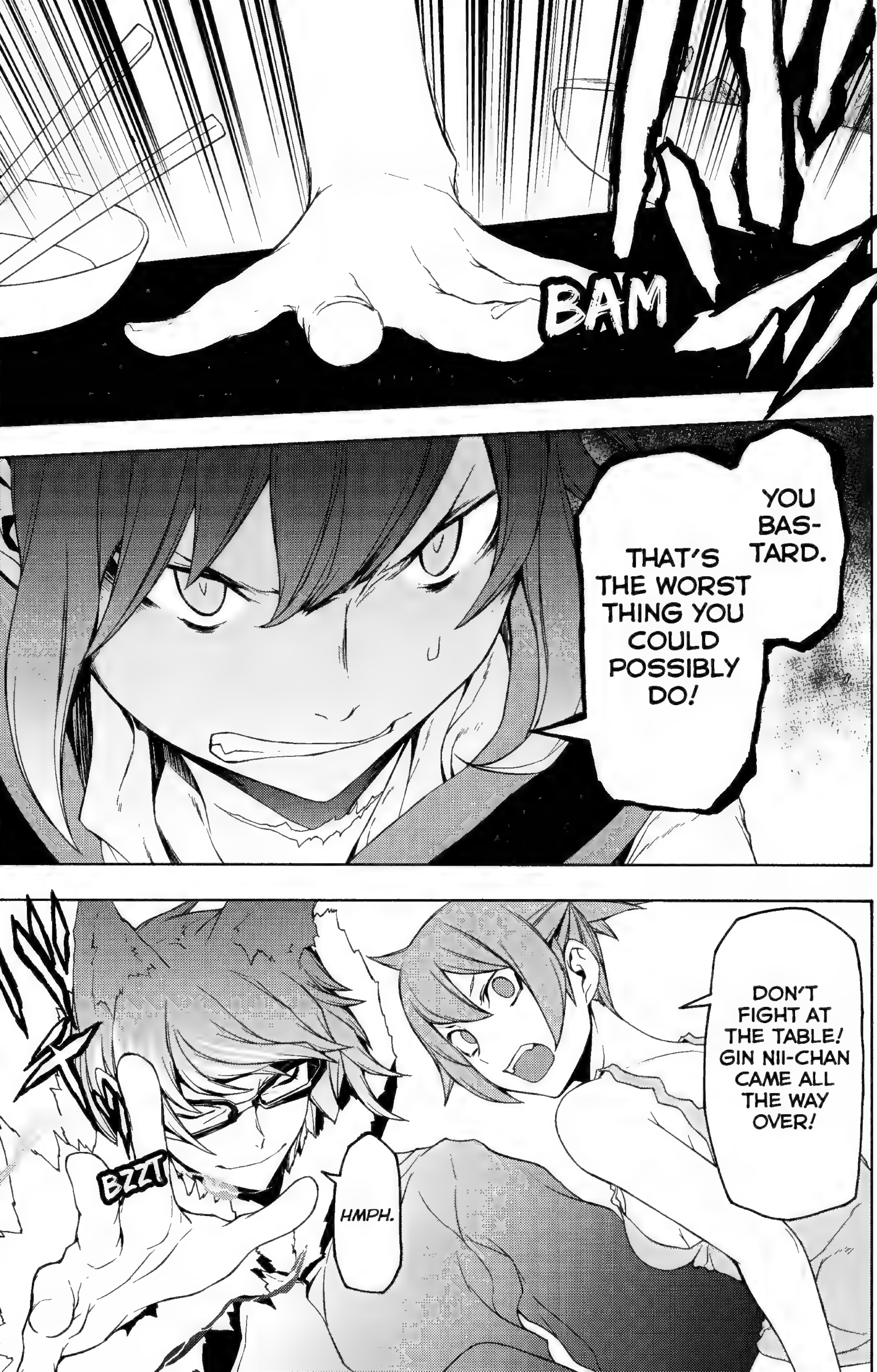

THE SATORI'S MENTAL INTERFERENCE IS PRETTY HANDY.
JUST A LITTLE BRAINWASHING, AND I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ROOM AND BOARD.
JUST LIKE SO.
THEN I JUST WIPE THEIR MEMORIES THE NEXT DAY, AND THAT'S THAT.
...
WE'RE NOT BRAINWASHED.
HMPH.
GUESS IT DIDN'T WORK.
SEEMS THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF NOISE IN TOWN LATELY.
NOISE?
SOMEONE'S LITTERING PSYCHIC WAVES ALL OVER THE PLACE.
...
AO?

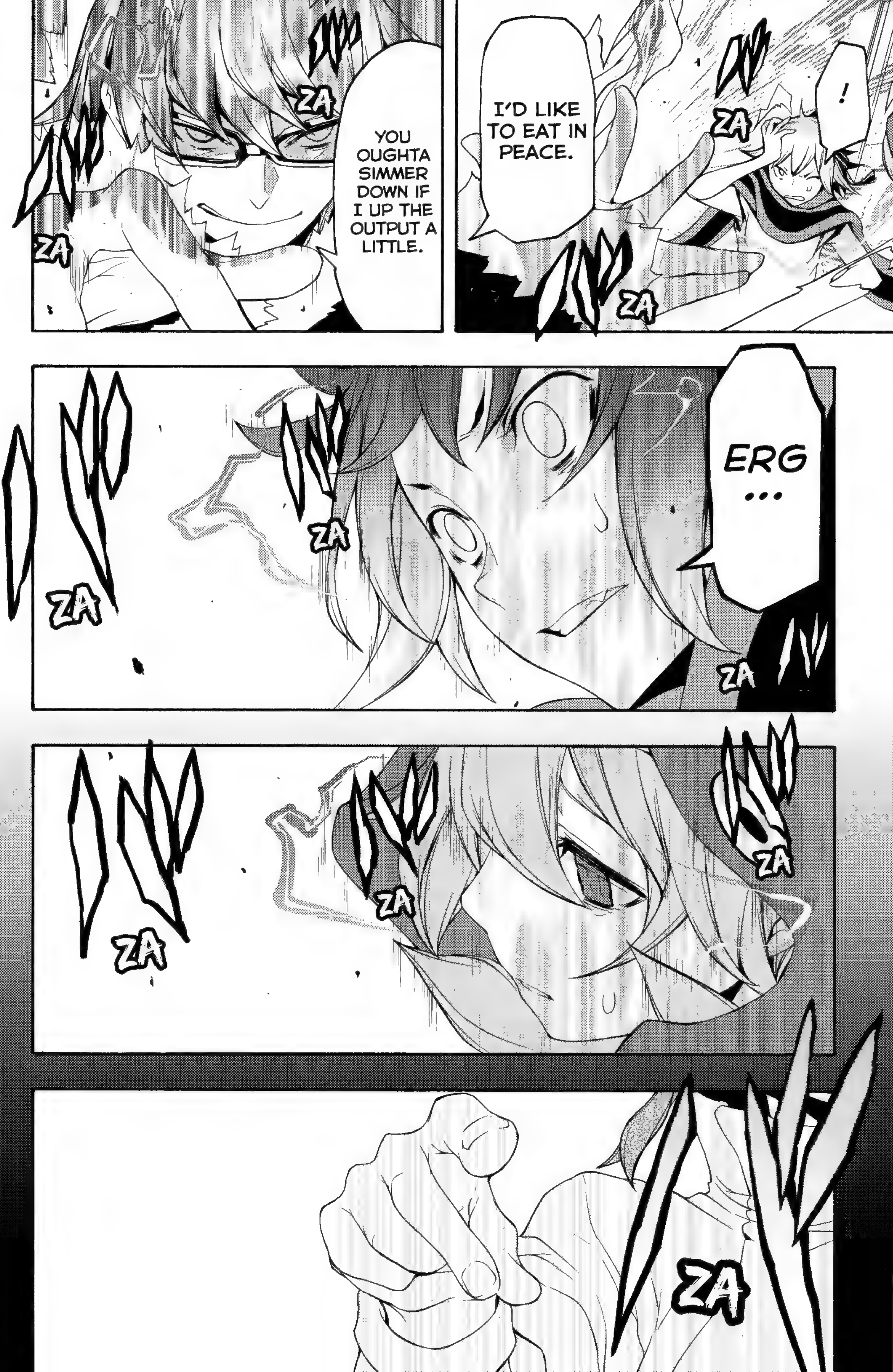

BUT SHE HAS THE EARS SHIINA-SAN MADE...
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE SATORI'S POWER.
THEY CAN'T SUPPRESS IT ENTIRELY.
SHE'S CONSTANTLY LEAKING MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF DEMONIC POWER UNKNOWINGLY.
AT THIS RATE...
...SHE'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE.
...
NOM
モグ
THANKS FOR THE WARNING.
BY THE WAY, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN COMING TO MY PLACE, HAVE YOU?
HMPH.

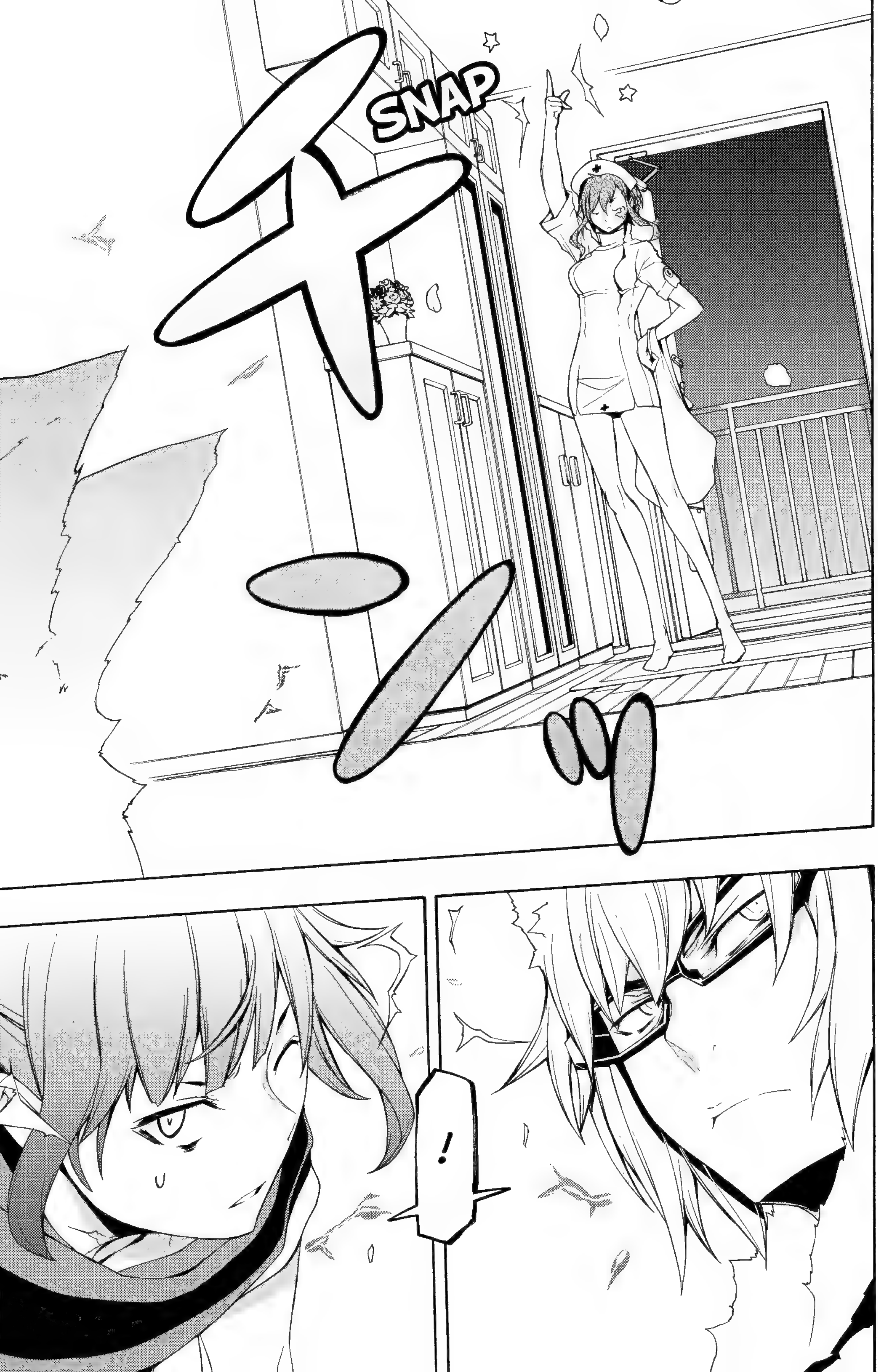

DON'T WORRY.
I HAVEN'T GONE TO YOUR PLACE.
I DON'T NEED THESE...
AH!
FLICK
DON'T BE PICKY!
SHUT IT.
...
...
WHAT ABOUT... *YOUR* HOUSE?
SNAP
... THE FOOD'S THERE'S GREAT...

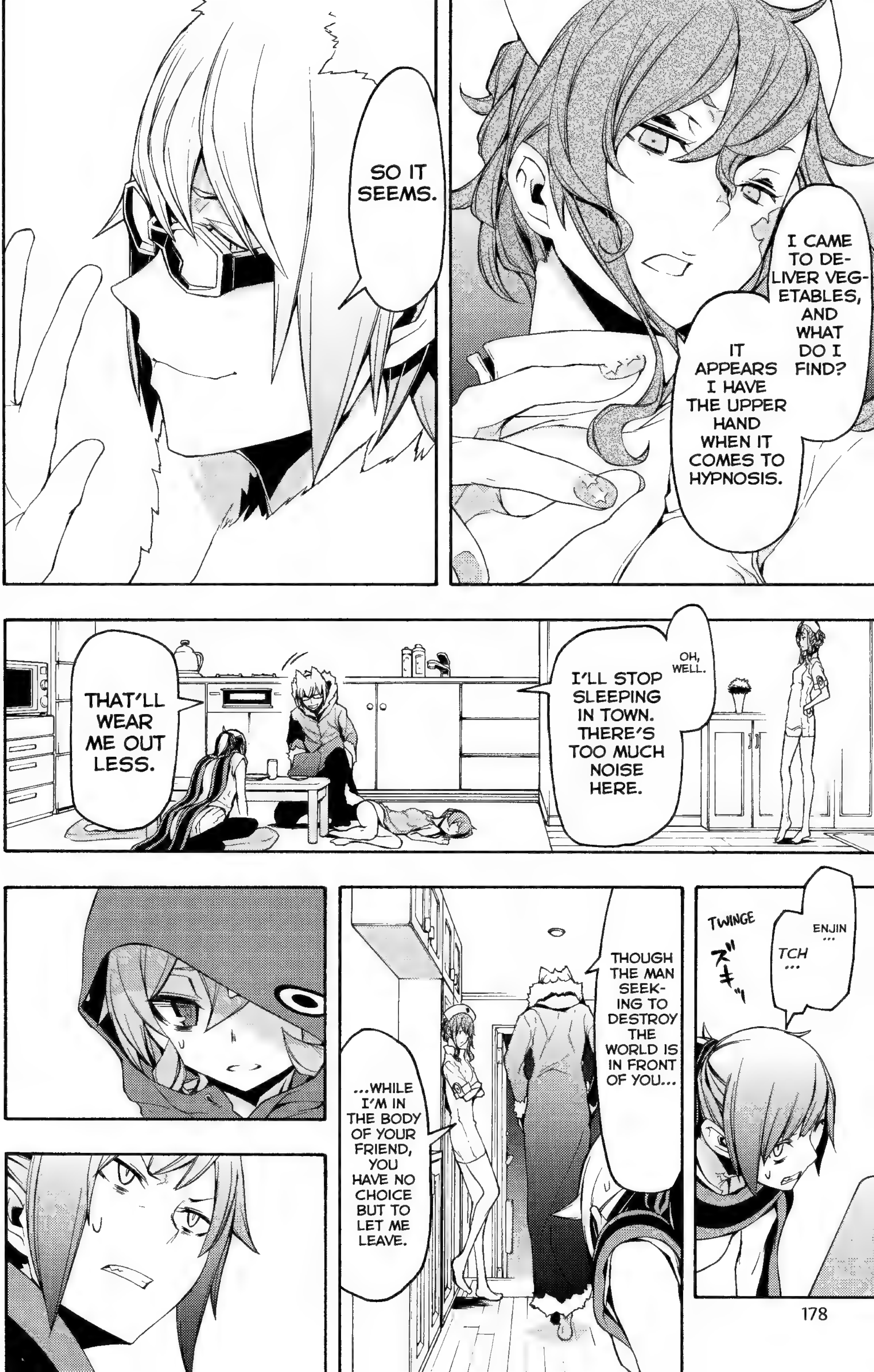

...BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE BED.
...

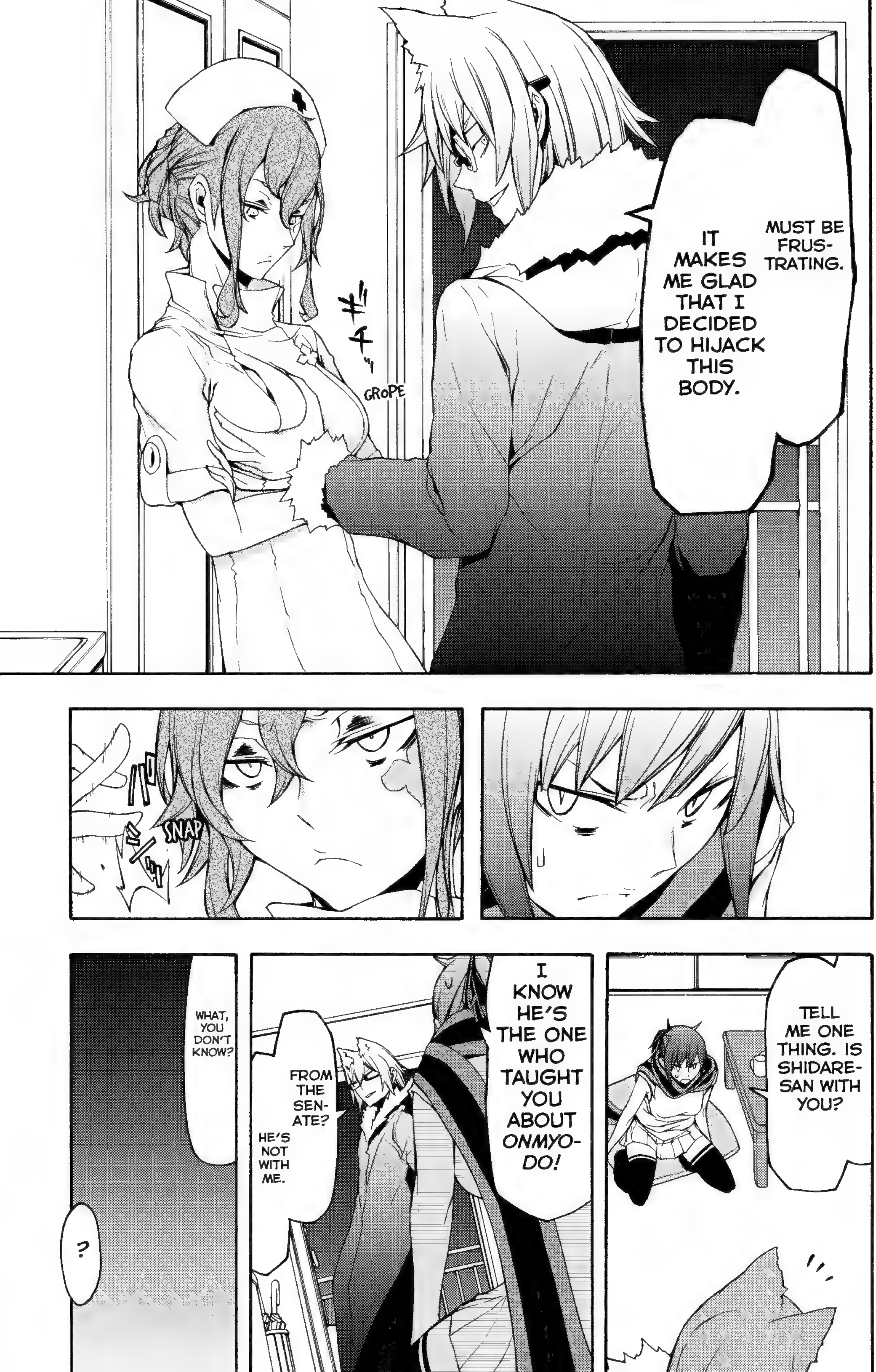

LATELY...
...I'VE BEEN HAVING DREAMS ABOUT NII-SAN.
WE EAT TOGETHER.
SLEEP TOGETHER...
IT'D BE NICE IF THAT BECOMES REAL SOMEDAY...

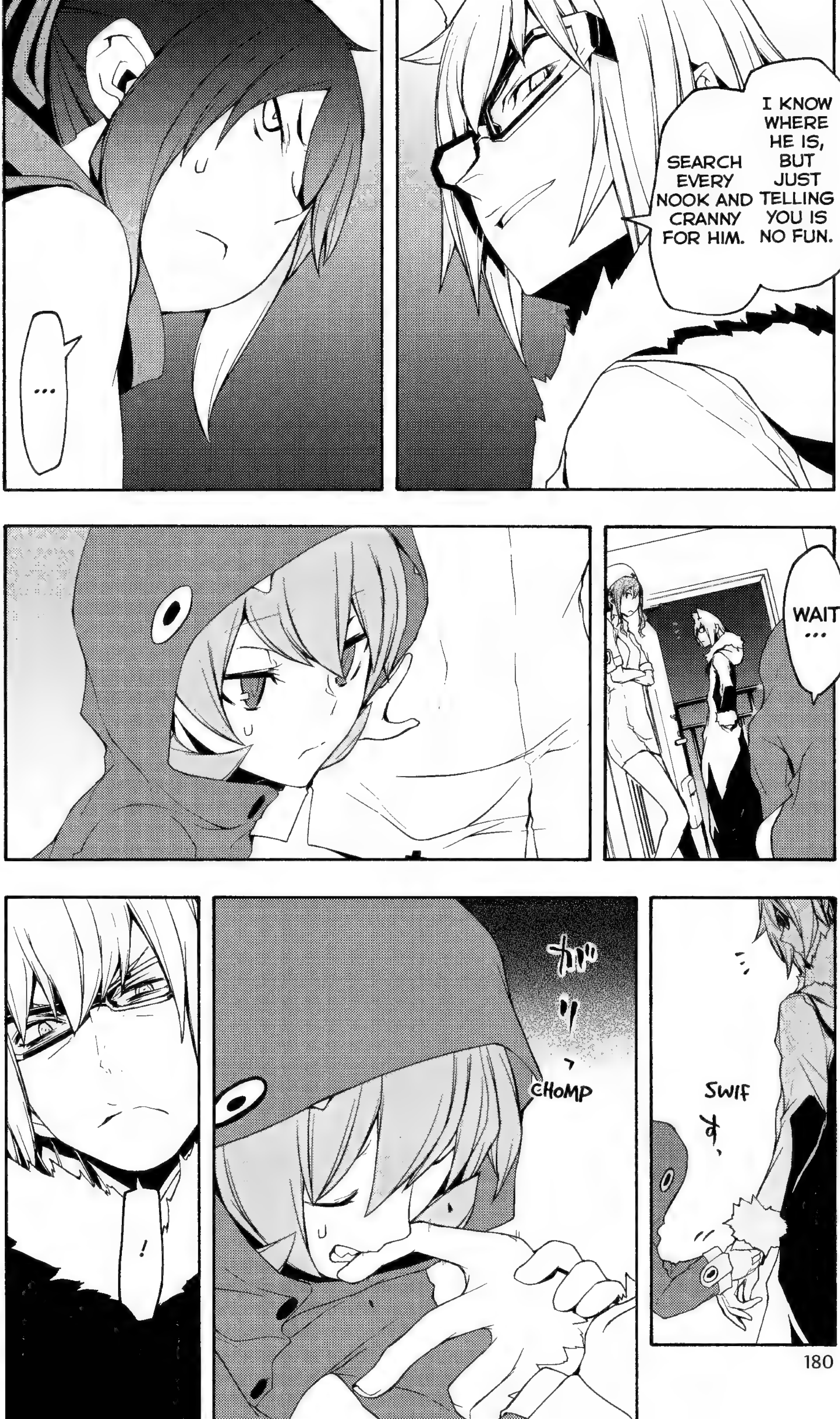

BAM
YOU BASTARD.
THAT'S THE WORST THING YOU COULD POSSIBLY DO!
DON'T FIGHT AT THE TABLE! GIN NII-CHAN CAME ALL THE WAY OVER!
HMPH.
BZZT

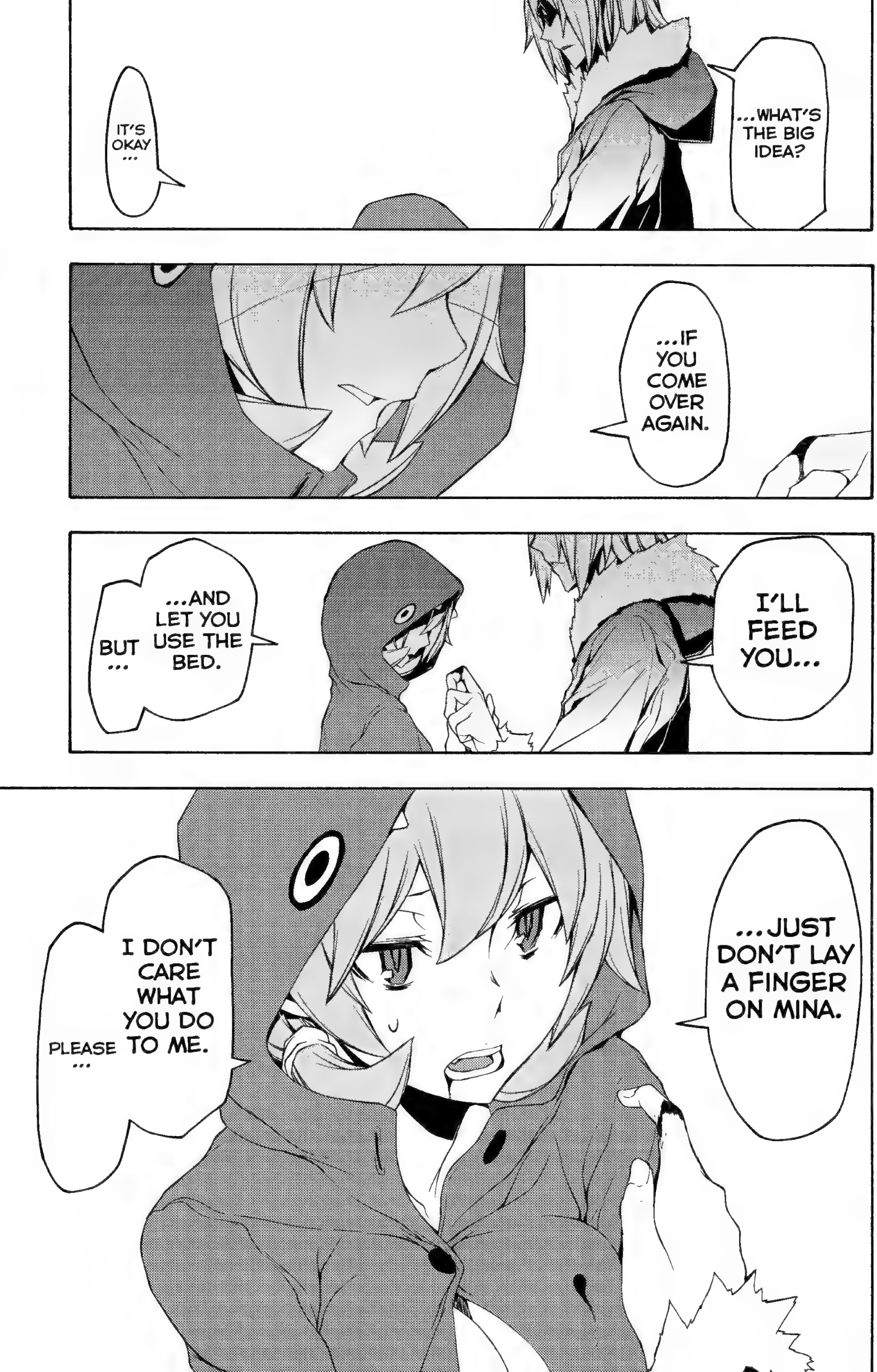

!
ZA
I'D LIKE TO EAT IN PEACE.
ZA
ZA
YOU OUGHTA SIMMER DOWN IF I UP THE OUTPUT A LITTLE.
ZA
ERG...
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA

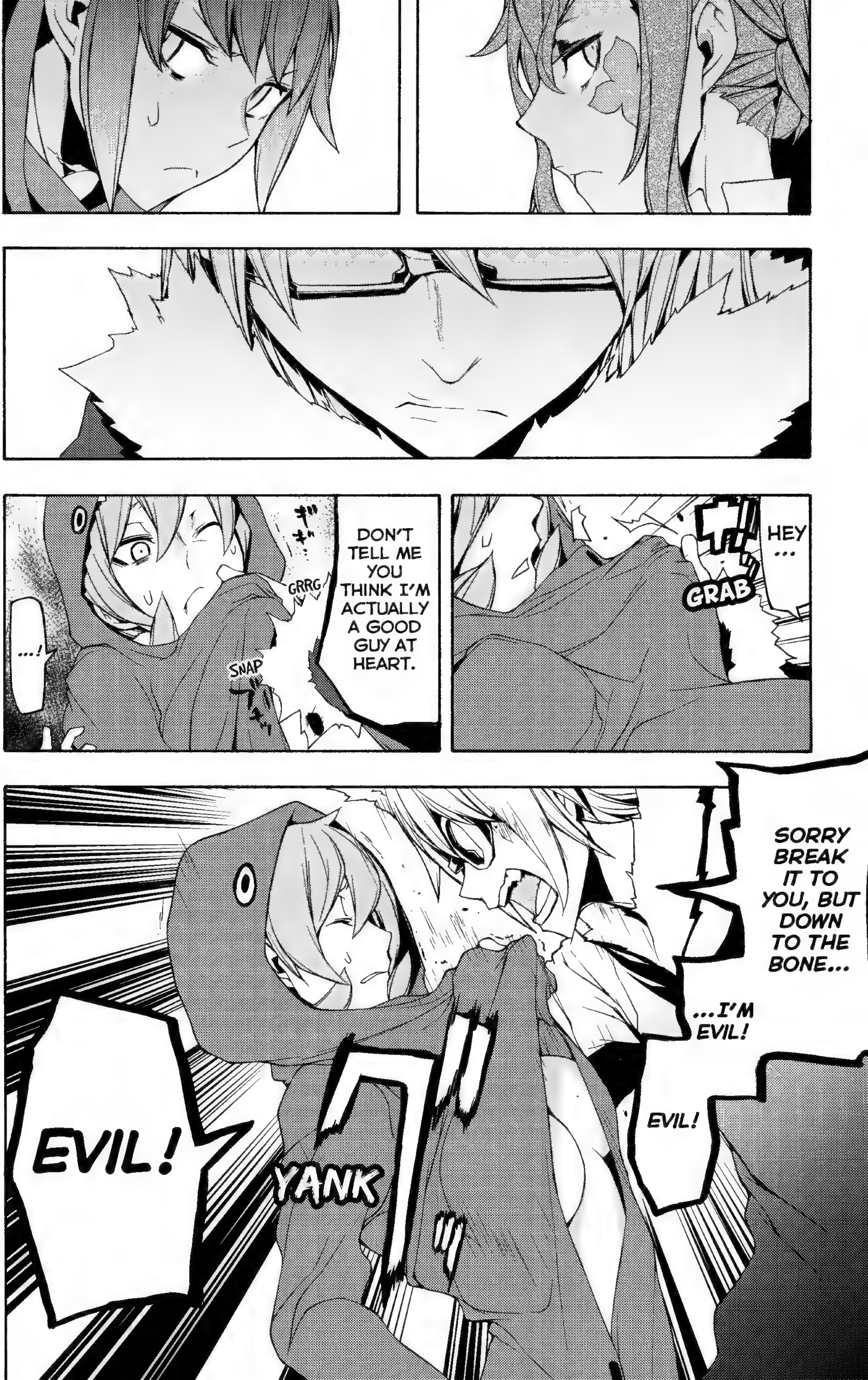

SNAP
!

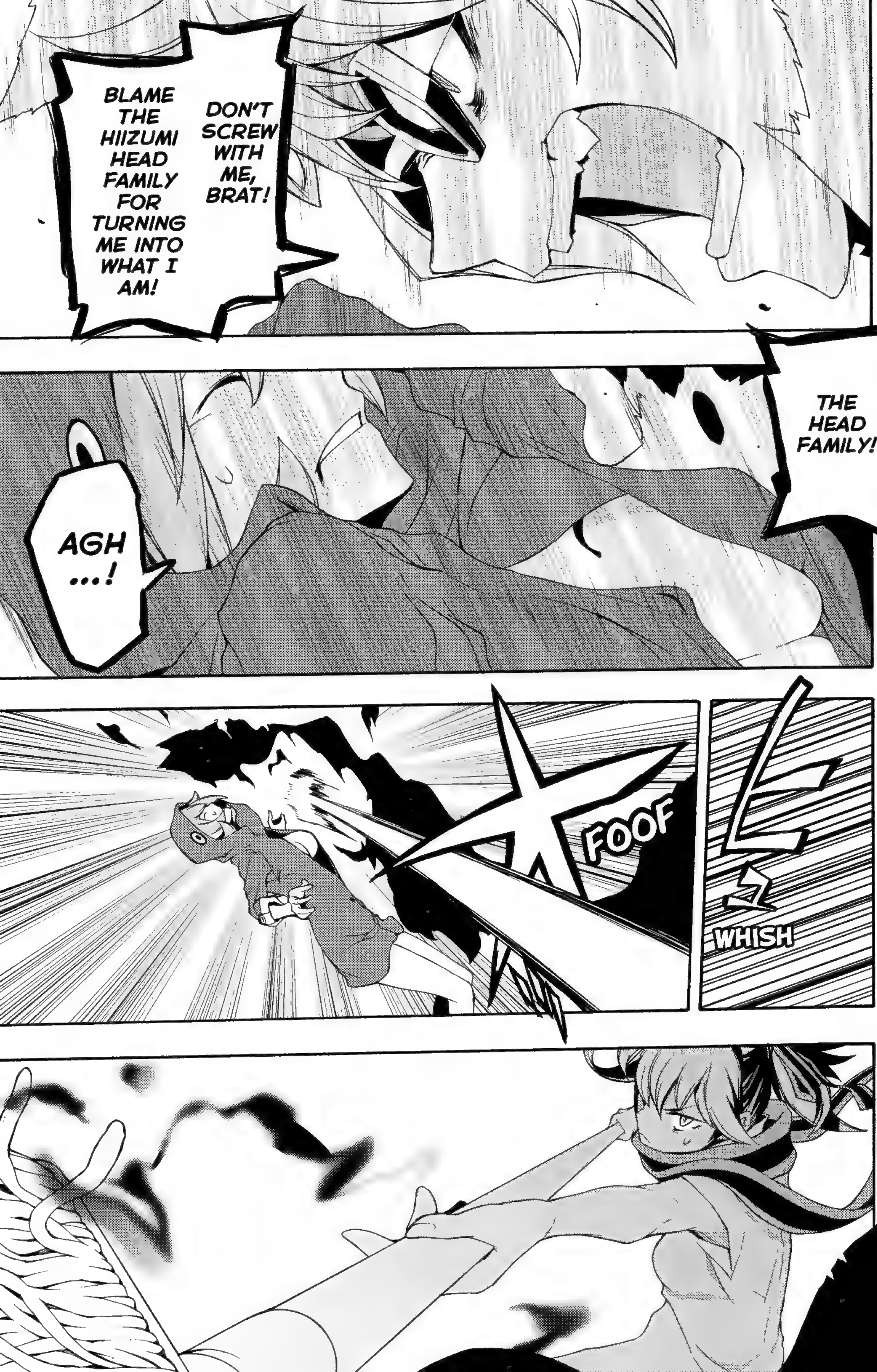

I CAME TO DELIVER VEGETABLES, AND WHAT DO I FIND?
IT APPEARS I HAVE THE UPPER HAND WHEN IT COMES TO HYPNOSIS.
SO IT SEEMS.
OH, WELL.
I'LL STOP SLEEPING IN TOWN. THERE'S TOO MUCH NOISE HERE.
THAT'LL WEAR ME OUT LESS.
ENJIN...
TCH...
TWINGE
ズキッ
THOUGH THE MAN SEEKING TO DESTROY THE WORLD IS IN FRONT OF YOU...
...WHILE I'M IN THE BODY OF YOUR FRIEND, YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LET ME LEAVE.

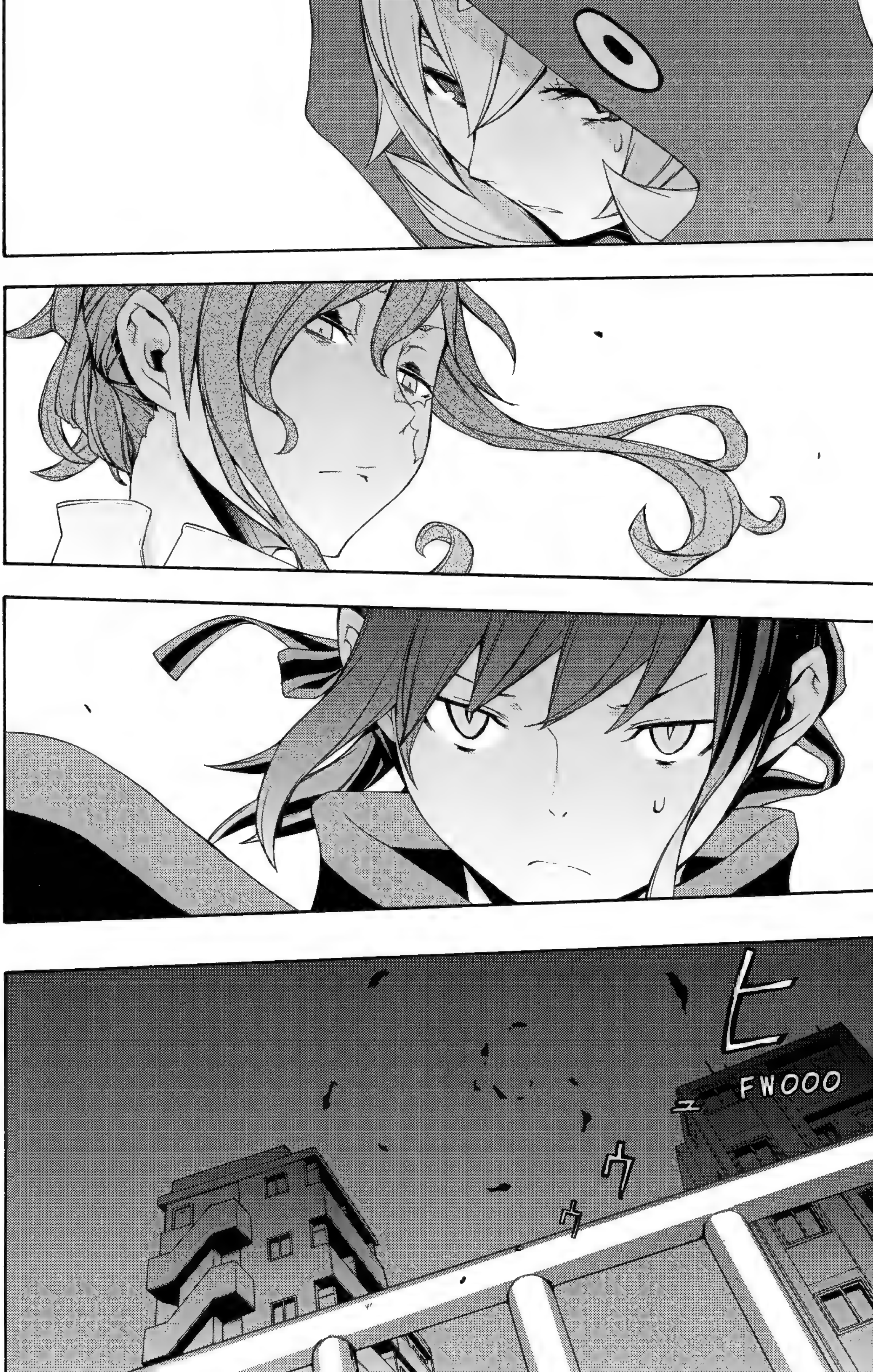

MUST BE FRUSTRATING.
IT MAKES ME GLAD THAT I DECIDED TO HIJACK THIS BODY.
GROPE
SNAP
TELL ME ONE THING. IS SHIDARE-SAN WITH YOU?
I KNOW HE'S THE ONE WHO TAUGHT YOU ABOUT *ONMYO-DO!*
FROM THE SENATE?
HE'S NOT WITH ME.
WHAT, YOU DON'T KNOW?
?

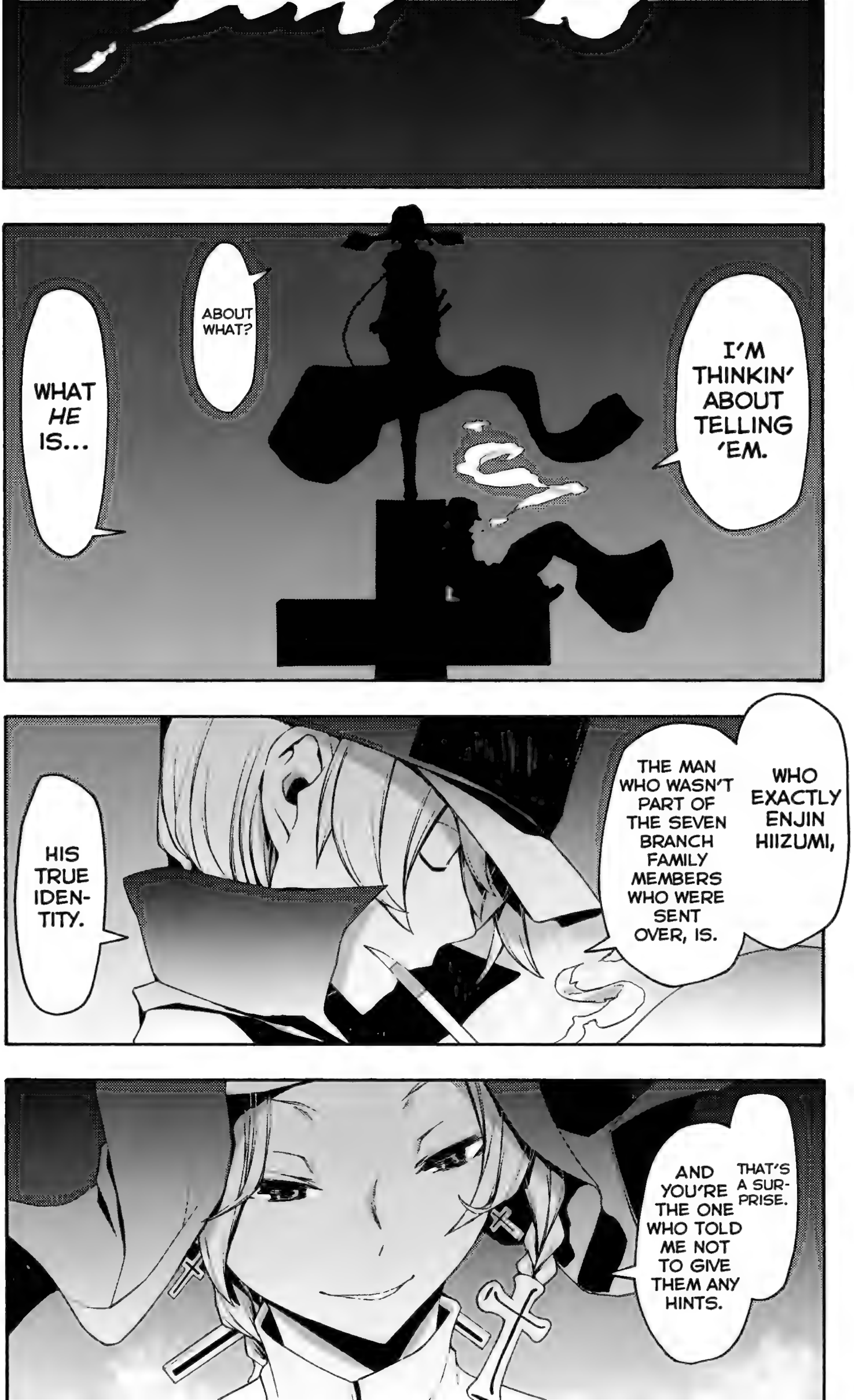

I KNOW WHERE HE IS, BUT JUST TELLING YOU IS NO FUN.
SEARCH EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY FOR HIM.
...
WAIT...
すっ
SWIF
がりっ
CHOMP
!

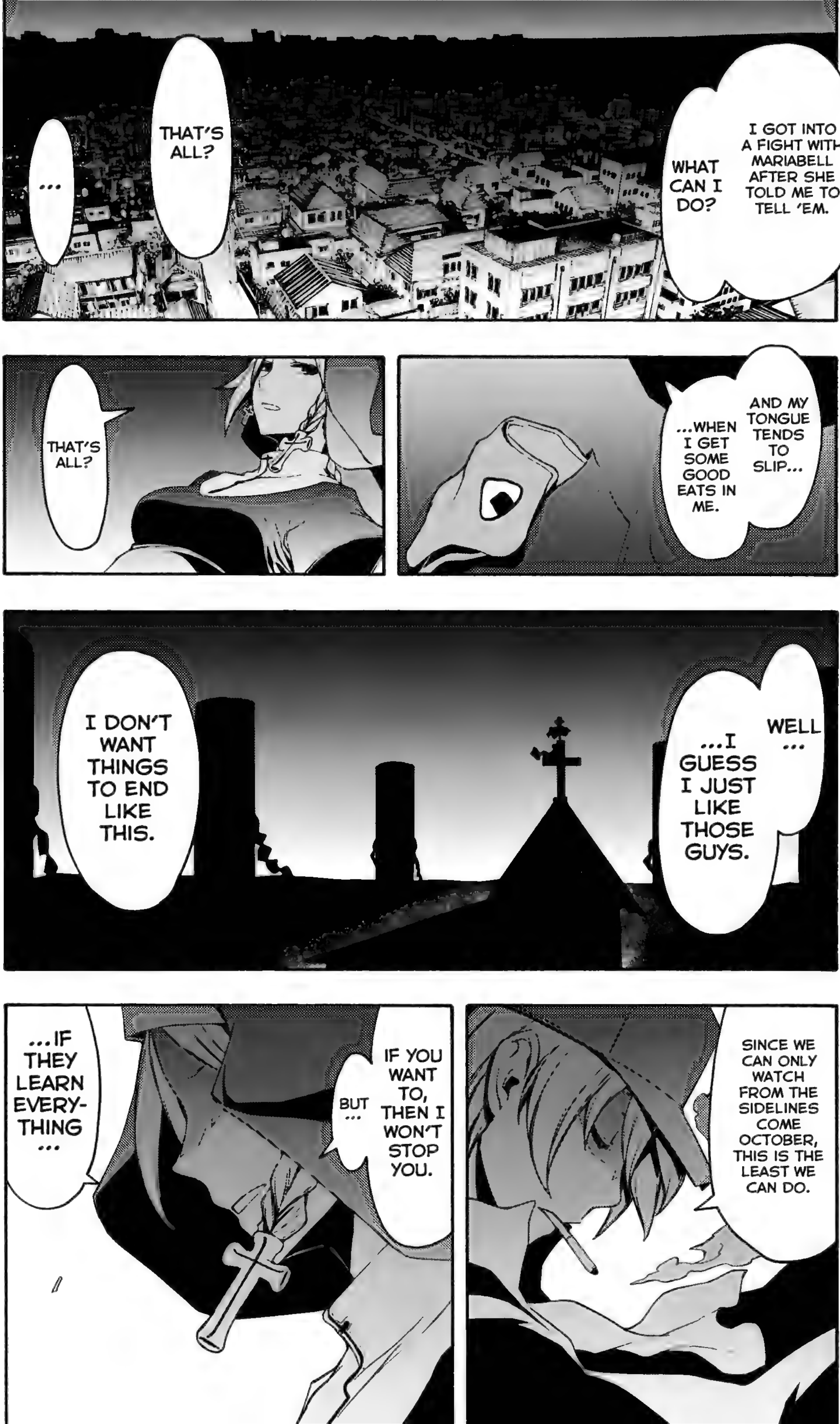

...WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
IT'S OKAY...
...IF YOU COME OVER AGAIN.
I'LL FEED YOU...
...AND LET YOU USE THE BED.
BUT...
...JUST DON'T LAY A FINGER ON MINA.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO TO ME.
PLEASE...

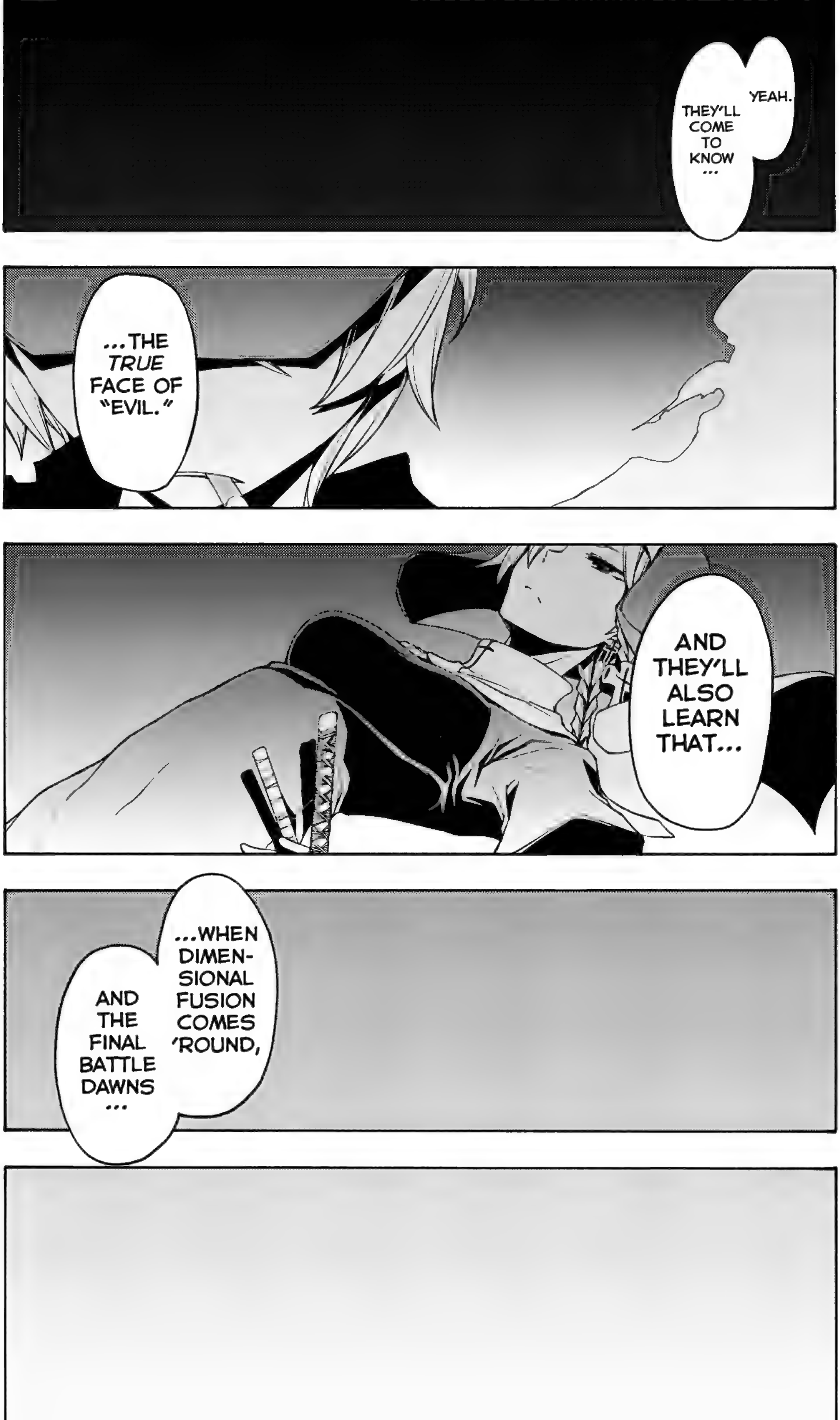

HEY ...
GRAB
DON'T TELL ME YOU THINK I'M ACTUALLY A GOOD GUY AT HEART.
GRRG
SNAP
...!
SORRY BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT DOWN TO THE BONE...
...I'M EVIL!
EVIL!
EVIL!
YANK

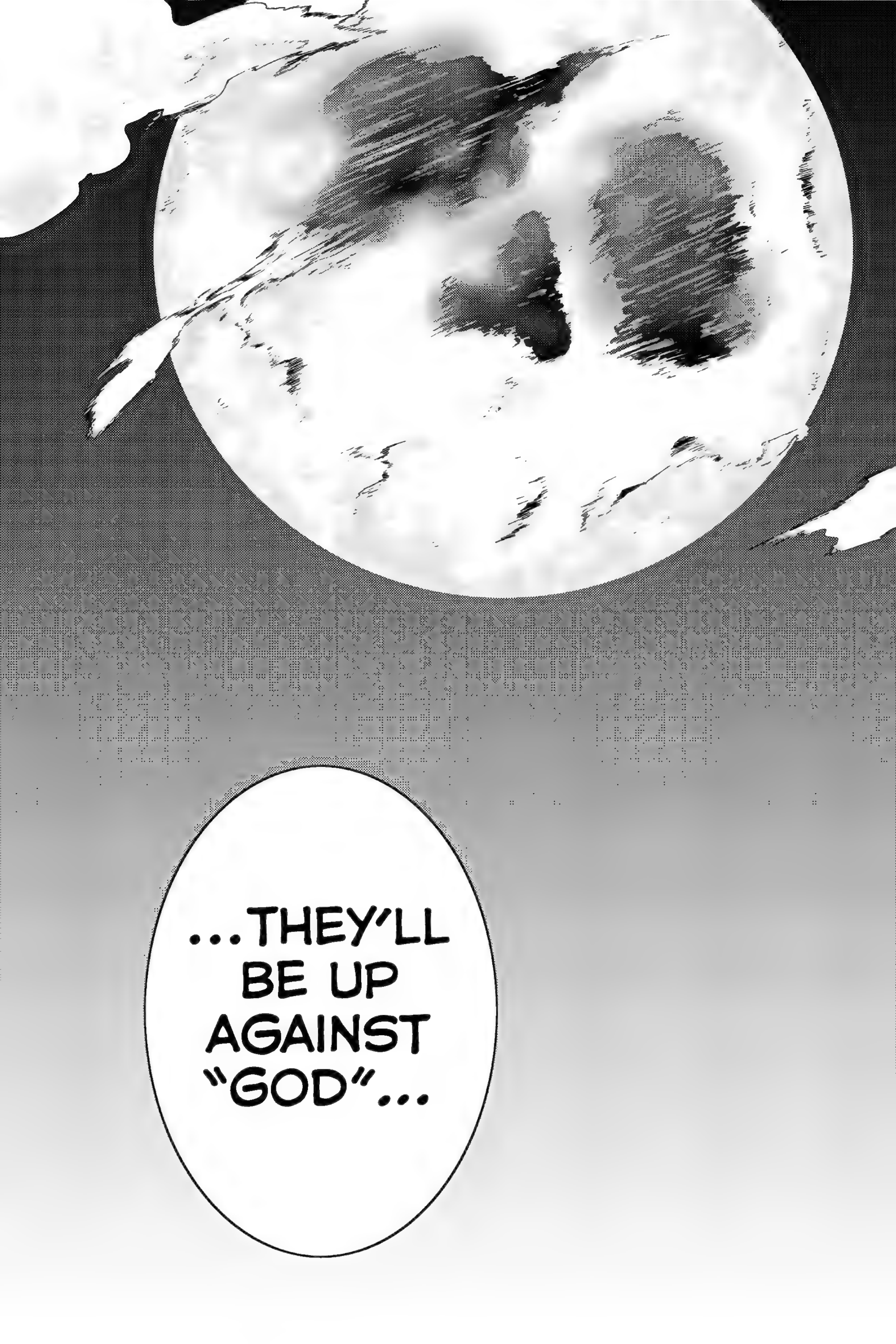

DON'T SCREW WITH ME, BRAT!
BLAME THE HIIZUMI HEAD FAMILY FOR TURNING ME INTO WHAT I AM!
THE HEAD FAMILY!
AGH ...!
WHISH
FOOF


ヒュウウ
FWOOO


I'M THINKIN' ABOUT TELLING 'EM.
ABOUT WHAT?
WHAT *HE* IS...
WHO EXACTLY ENJIN HIIZUMI,
THE MAN WHO WASN'T PART OF THE SEVEN BRANCH FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE SENT OVER, IS.
HIS TRUE IDENTITY.
THAT'S A SURPRISE.
AND YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME NOT TO GIVE THEM ANY HINTS.

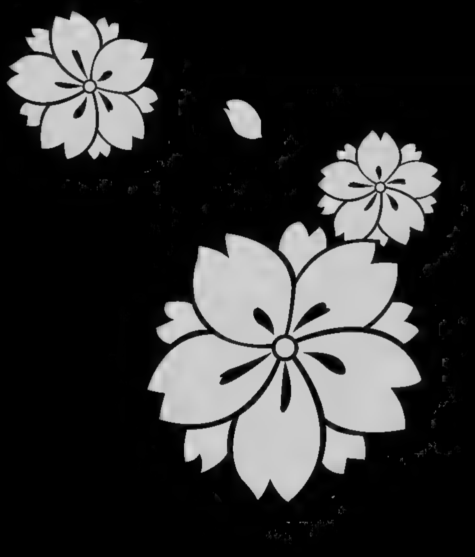

I GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH MARIABELL AFTER SHE TOLD ME TO TELL 'EM.
WHAT CAN I DO?
THAT'S ALL?
...
AND MY TONGUE TENDS TO SLIP...
...WHEN I GET SOME GOOD EATS IN ME.
THAT'S ALL?
WELL...
...I GUESS I JUST LIKE THOSE GUYS.
I DON'T WANT THINGS TO END LIKE THIS.
SINCE WE CAN ONLY WATCH FROM THE SIDELINES COME OCTOBER, THIS IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO.
IF YOU WANT TO, THEN I WON'T STOP YOU.
BUT...
...IF THEY LEARN EVERYTHING...


YEAH.
THEY'LL COME TO KNOW...
...THE *TRUE* FACE OF "EVIL."
AND THEY'LL ALSO LEARN THAT...
...WHEN DIMENSIONAL FUSION COMES 'ROUND,
AND THE FINAL BATTLE DAWNS...


...THEY'LL BE UP AGAINST "GOD"...

To be Continued .....

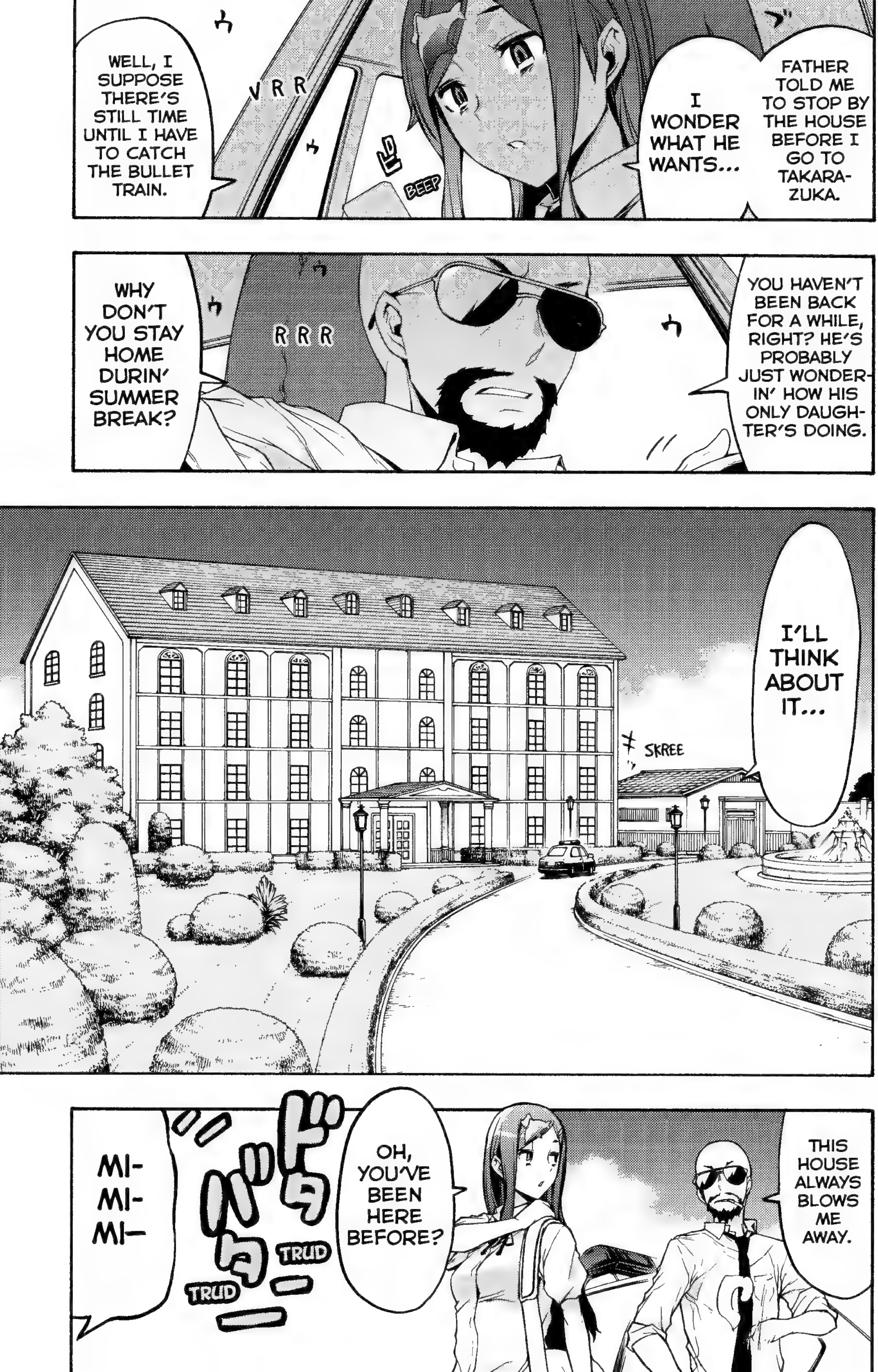
YOZAKURA QUARTET 19

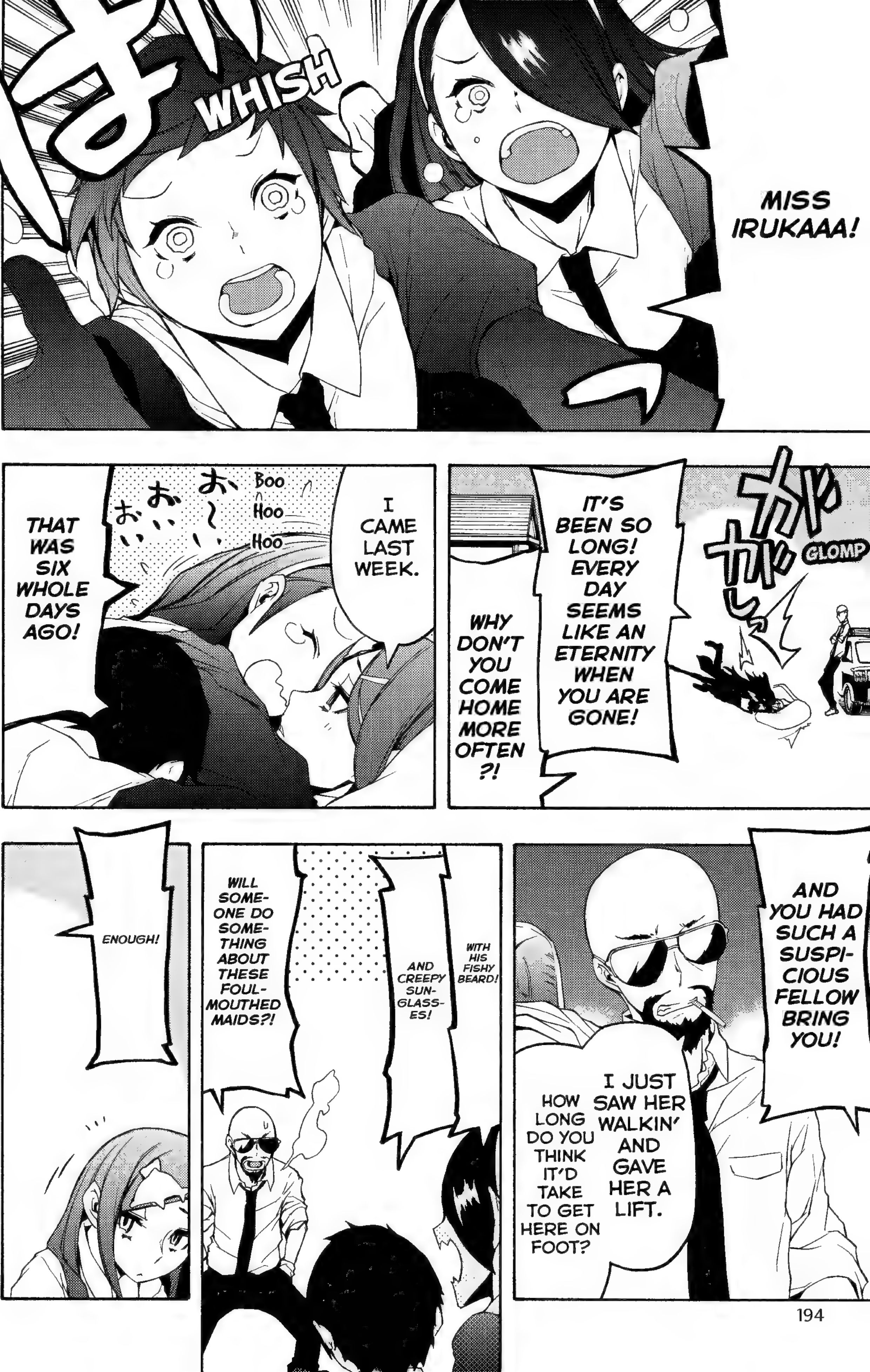


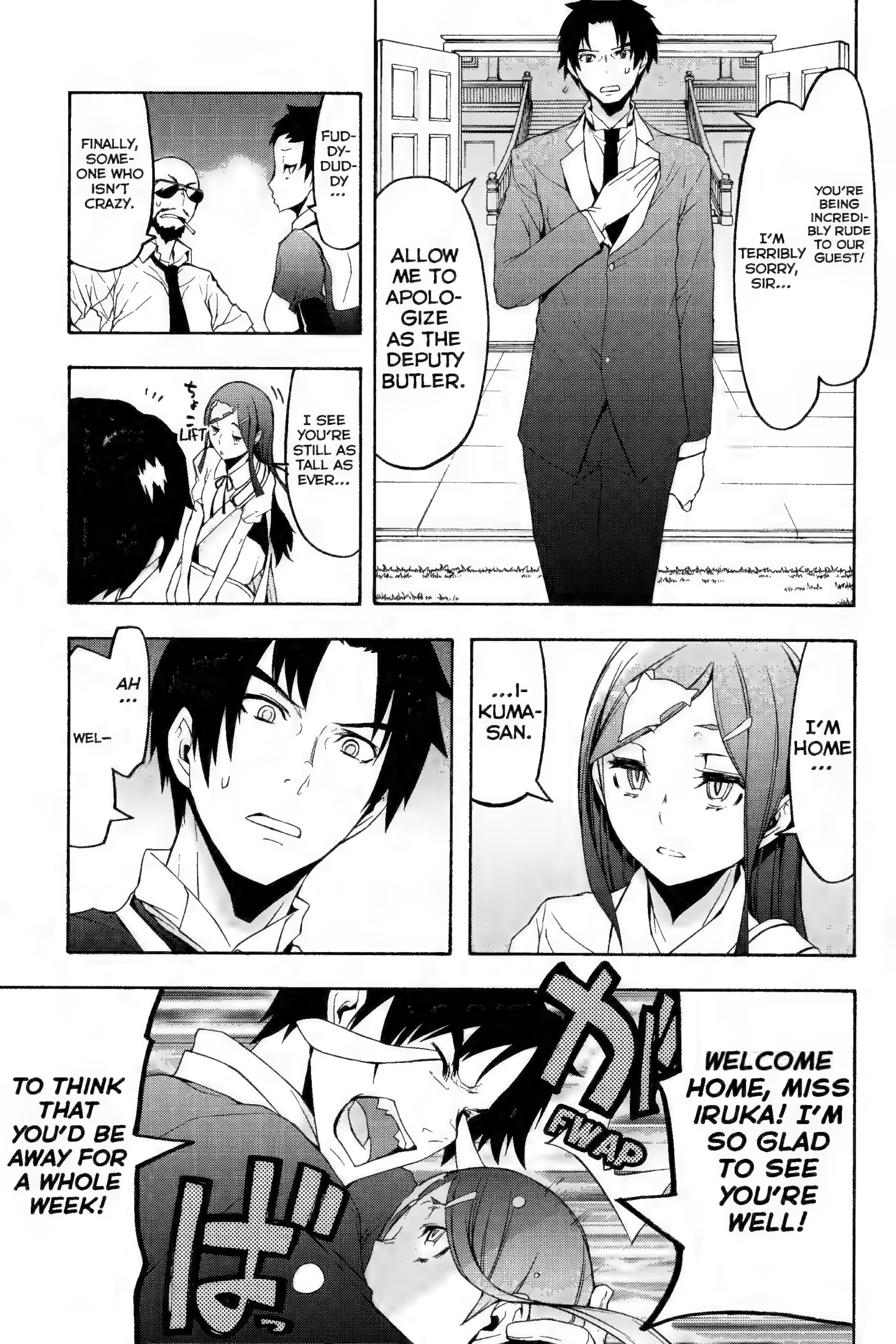
YOZAKURA QUARTET
夜桜四重奏 18

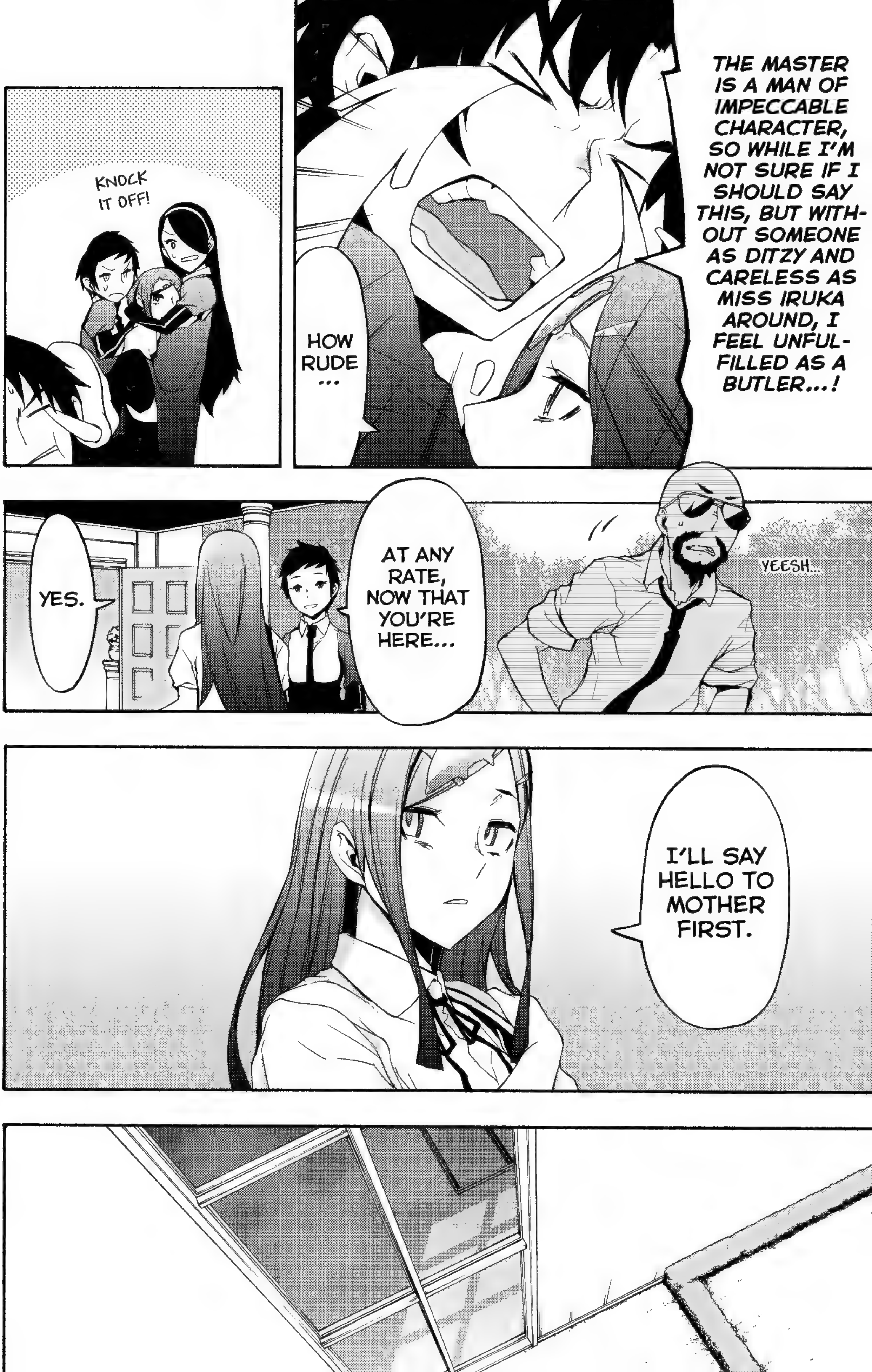
番外編

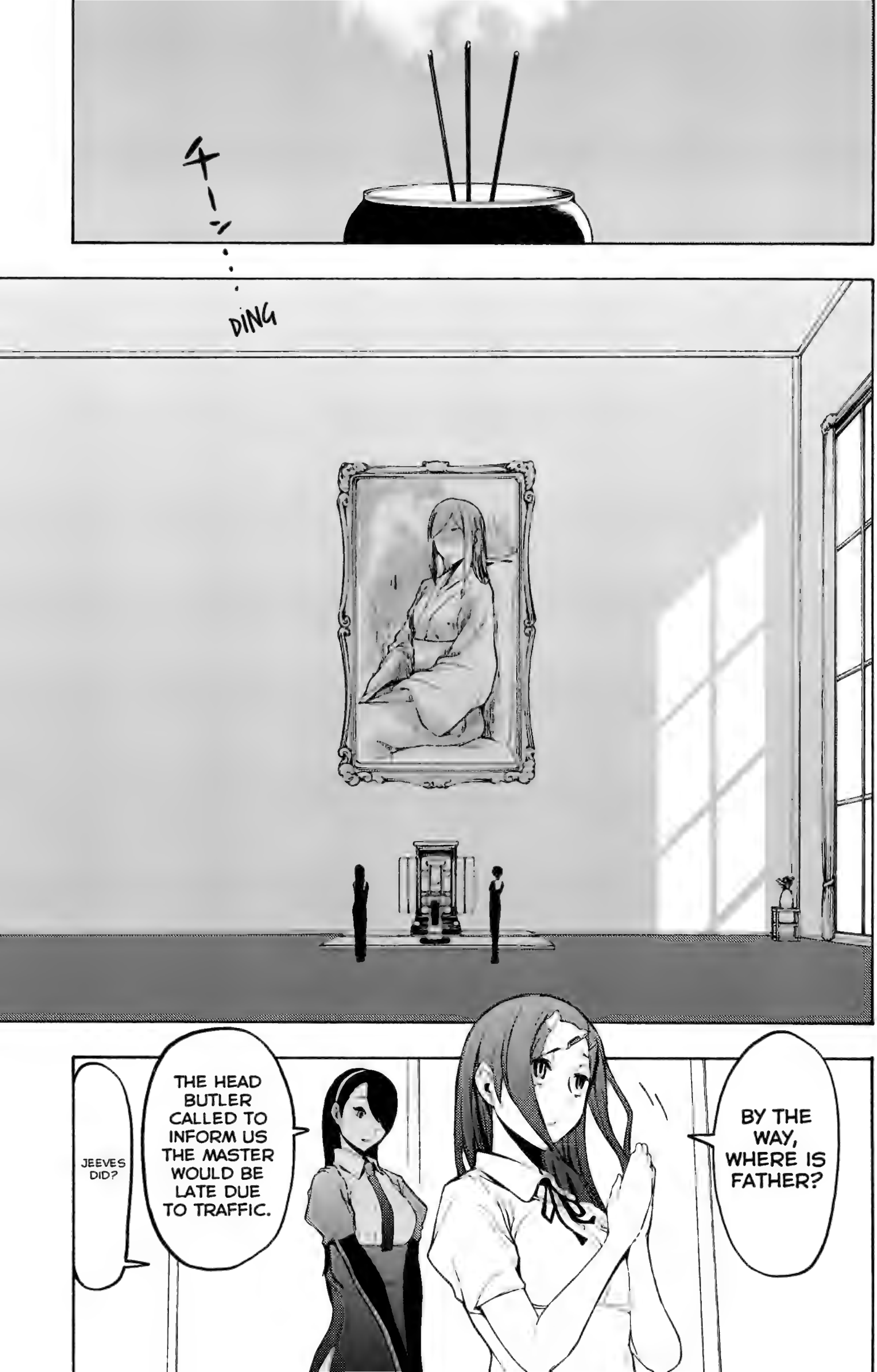
SIDE STORY

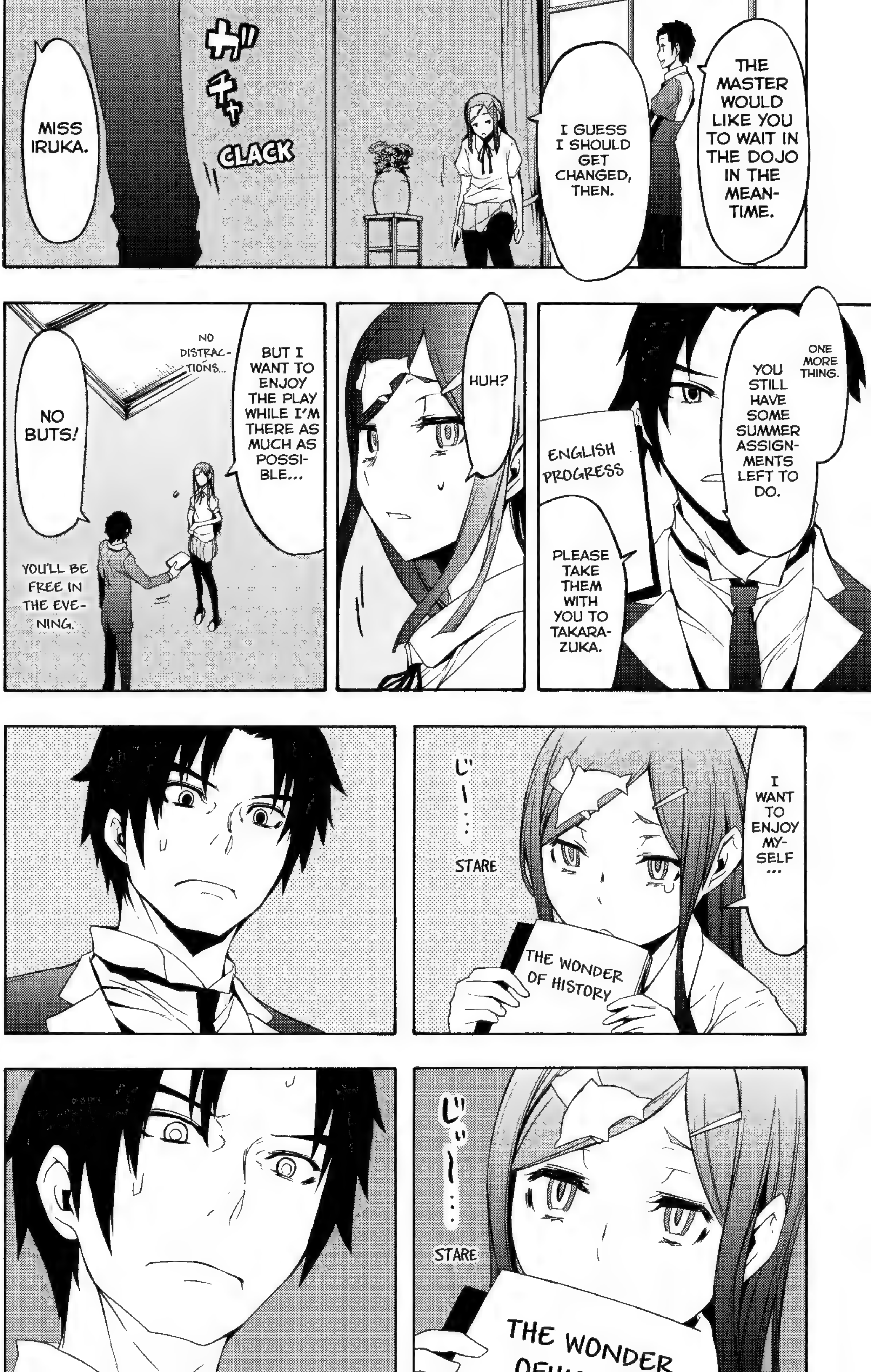

FATHER TOLD ME TO STOP BY THE HOUSE BEFORE I GO TO TAKARAZUKA.
I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS...
BEEP
VRR
WELL, I SUPPOSE THERE'S STILL TIME UNTIL I HAVE TO CATCH THE BULLET TRAIN.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN BACK FOR A WHILE, RIGHT? HE'S PROBABLY JUST WONDERIN' HOW HIS ONLY DAUGHTER'S DOING.
RRR
WHY DON'T YOU STAY HOME DURIN' SUMMER BREAK?
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT...
SKREE
THIS HOUSE ALWAYS BLOWS ME AWAY.
OH, YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE?
ドタ
バタ
TRUD
TRUD
MI-MI-MI—

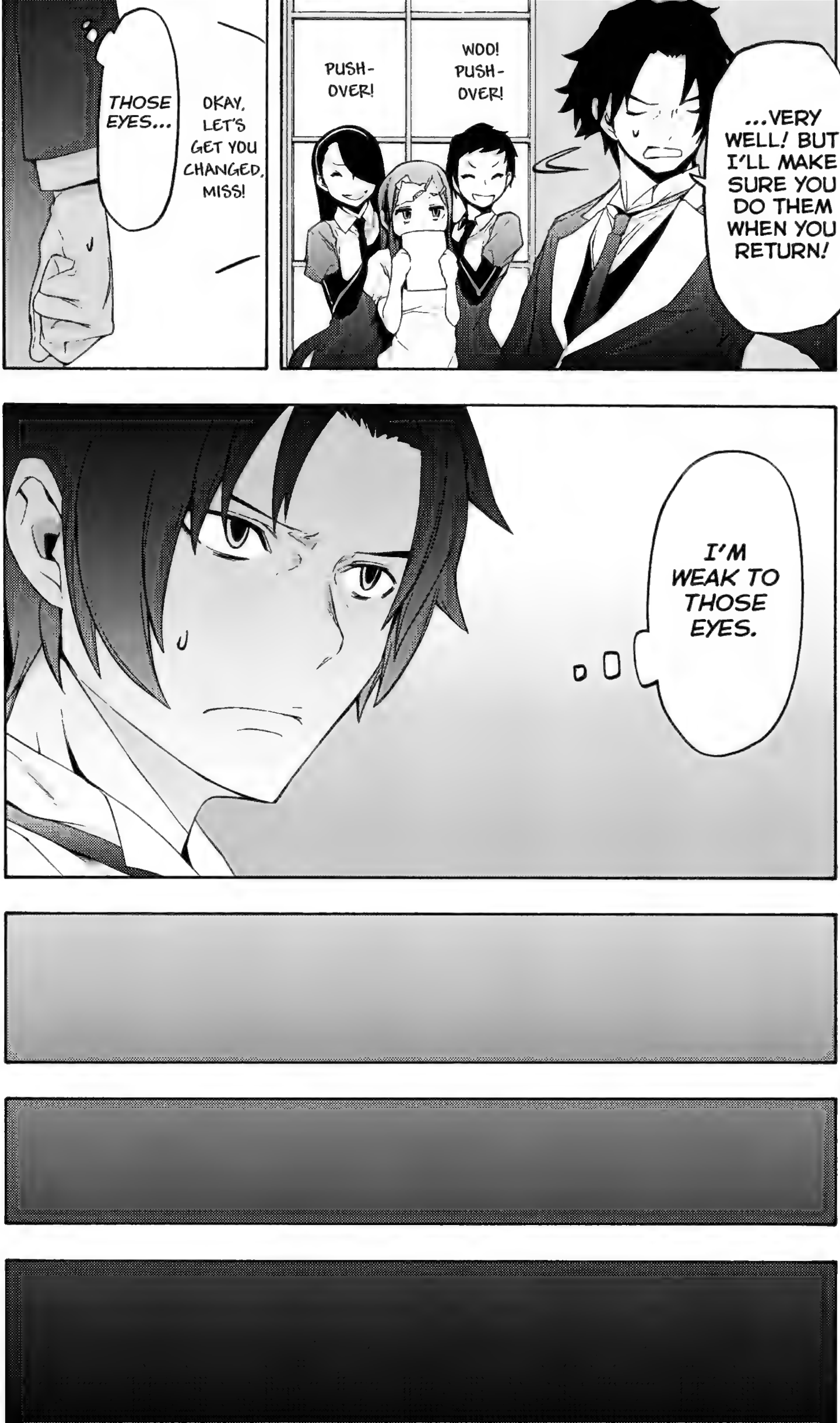

MISS IRUKAAA!
WHISH
GLOMP
IT'S BEEN SO LONG! EVERY DAY SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY WHEN YOU ARE GONE!
WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME MORE OFTEN?!
I CAME LAST WEEK.
Boo Hoo Hoo
THAT WAS SIX WHOLE DAYS AGO!
AND YOU HAD SUCH A SUSPICIOUS FELLOW BRING YOU!
I JUST SAW HER WALKIN' AND GAVE HER A LIFT.
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'D TAKE TO GET HERE ON FOOT?
WITH HIS FISHY BEARD!
AND CREEPY SUNGLASSES!
WILL SOMEONE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE FOUL-MOUTHED MAIDS?!
ENOUGH!

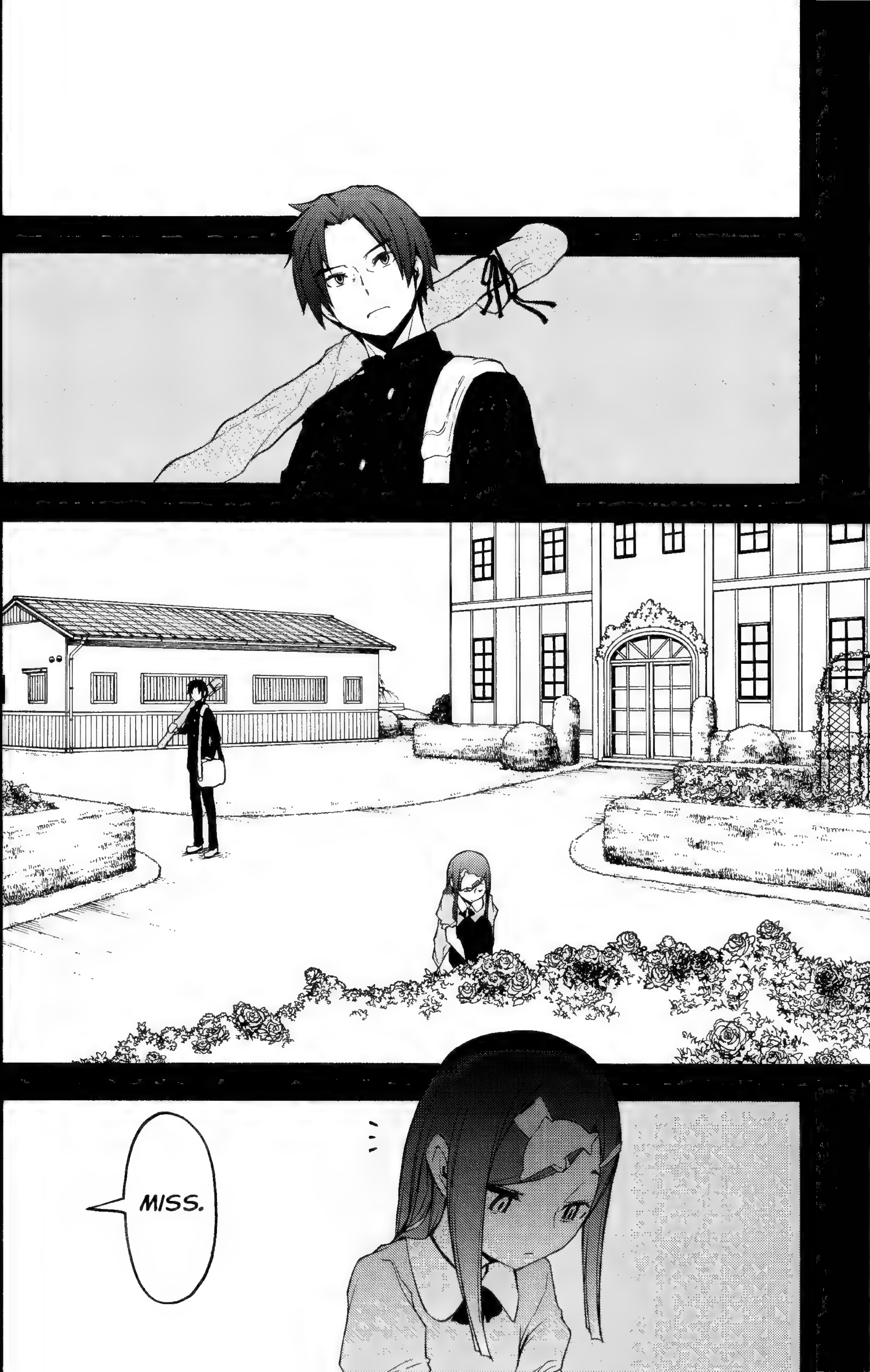

YOU'RE BEING INCREDIBLY RUDE TO OUR GUEST!
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR...
ALLOW ME TO APOLOGIZE AS THE DEPUTY BUTLER.
FUDDYDUDDY...
FINALLY, SOMEONE WHO ISN'T CRAZY.
I SEE YOU'RE STILL AS TALL AS EVER...
ちょこ
LIFT
I'M HOME...
...I-KUMA-SAN.
AH...
WEL-
WELCOME HOME, MISS IRUKA! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE WELL!
ガバ
FWAP
ばっ
TO THINK THAT YOU'D BE AWAY FOR A WHOLE WEEK!

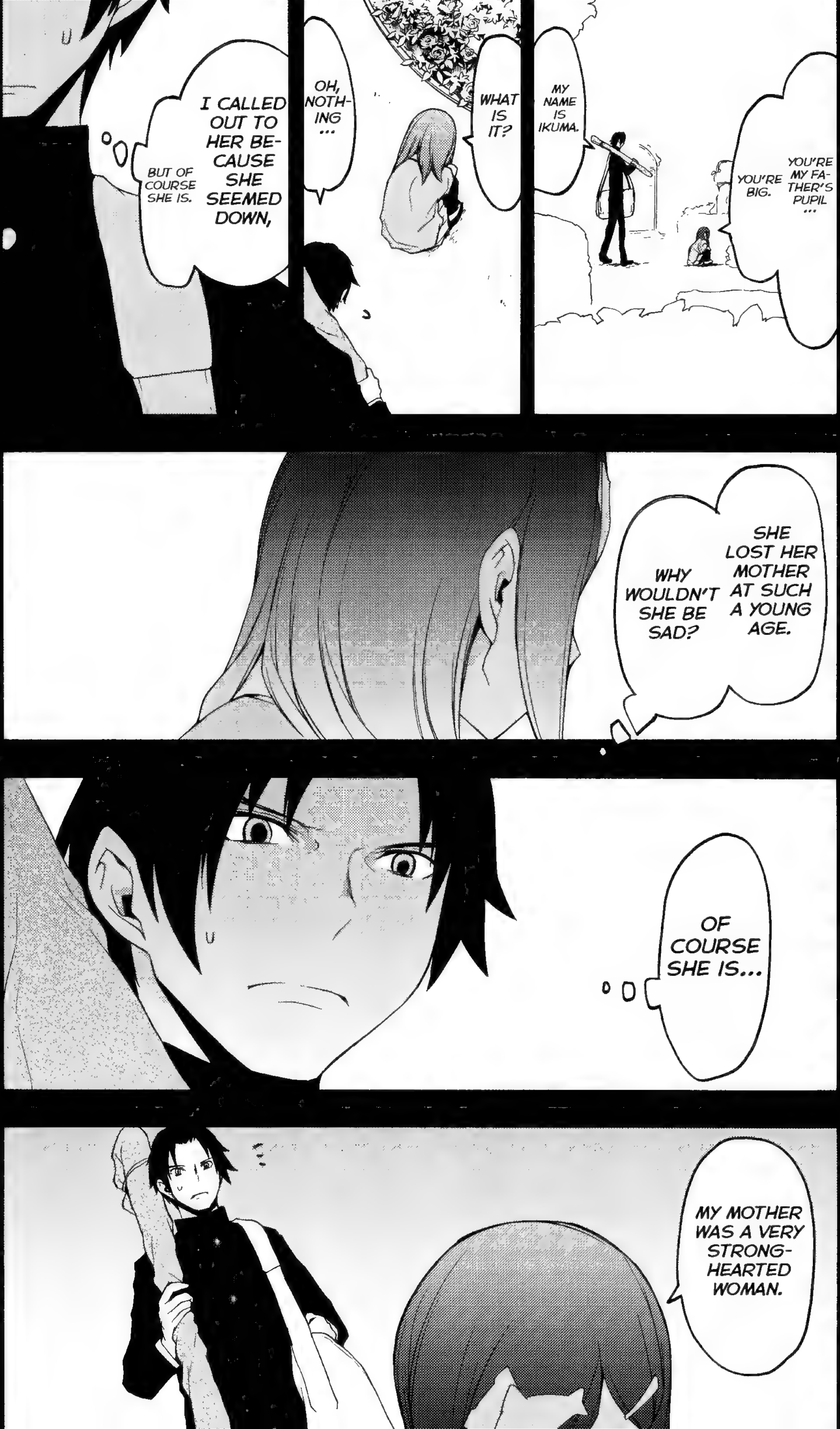

THE MASTER IS A MAN OF IMPECCABLE CHARACTER, SO WHILE I'M NOT SURE IF I SHOULD SAY THIS, BUT WITHOUT SOMEONE AS DITZY AND CARELESS AS MISS IRUKA AROUND, I FEEL UNFULFILLED AS A BUTLER...!
HOW RUDE...
KNOCK IT OFF!
YEESH...
AT ANY RATE, NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE...
YES.
I'LL SAY HELLO TO MOTHER FIRST.

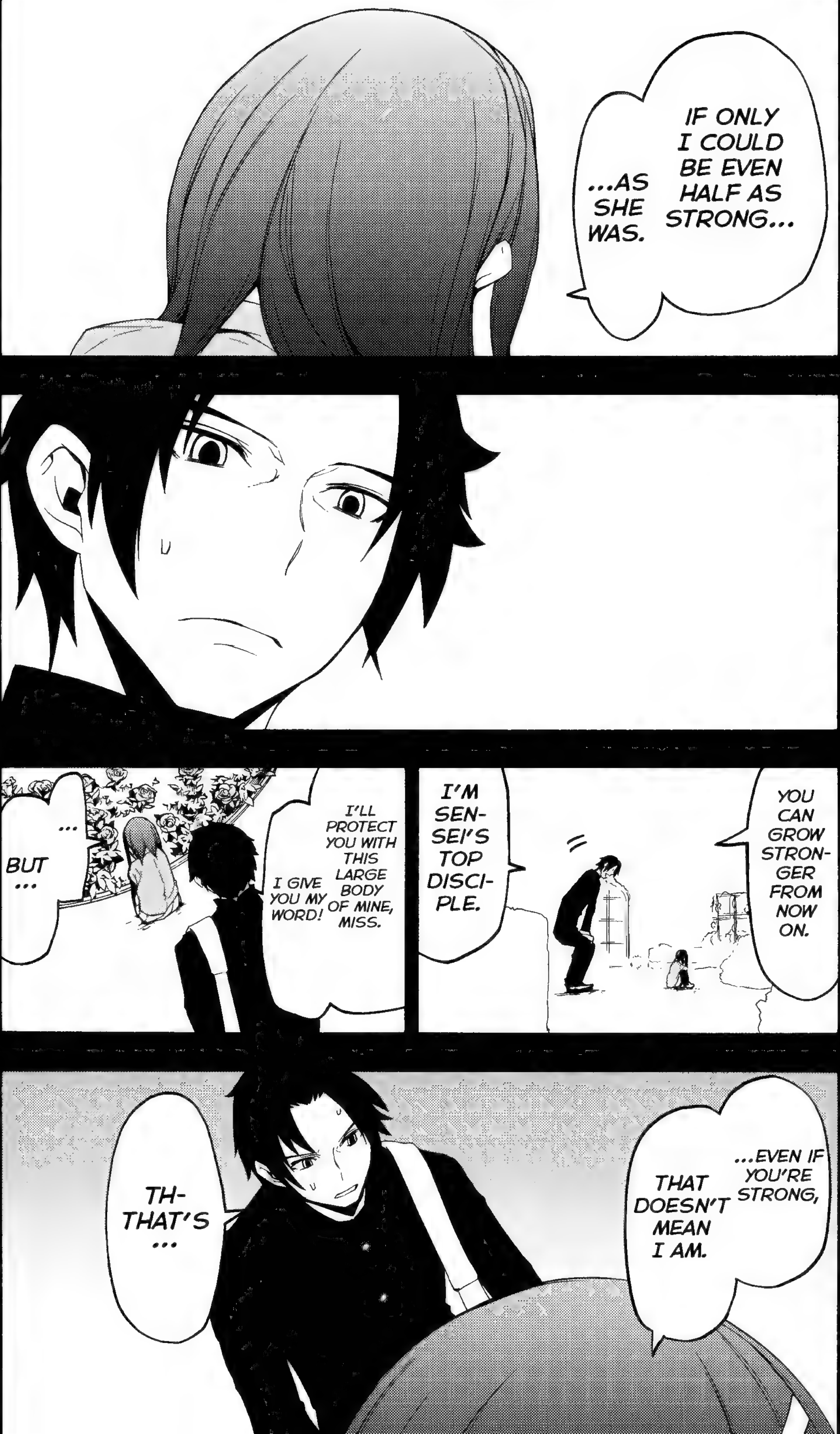

チーン…
DING
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS FATHER?
THE HEAD BUTLER CALLED TO INFORM US THE MASTER WOULD BE LATE DUE TO TRAFFIC.
JEEVES DID?

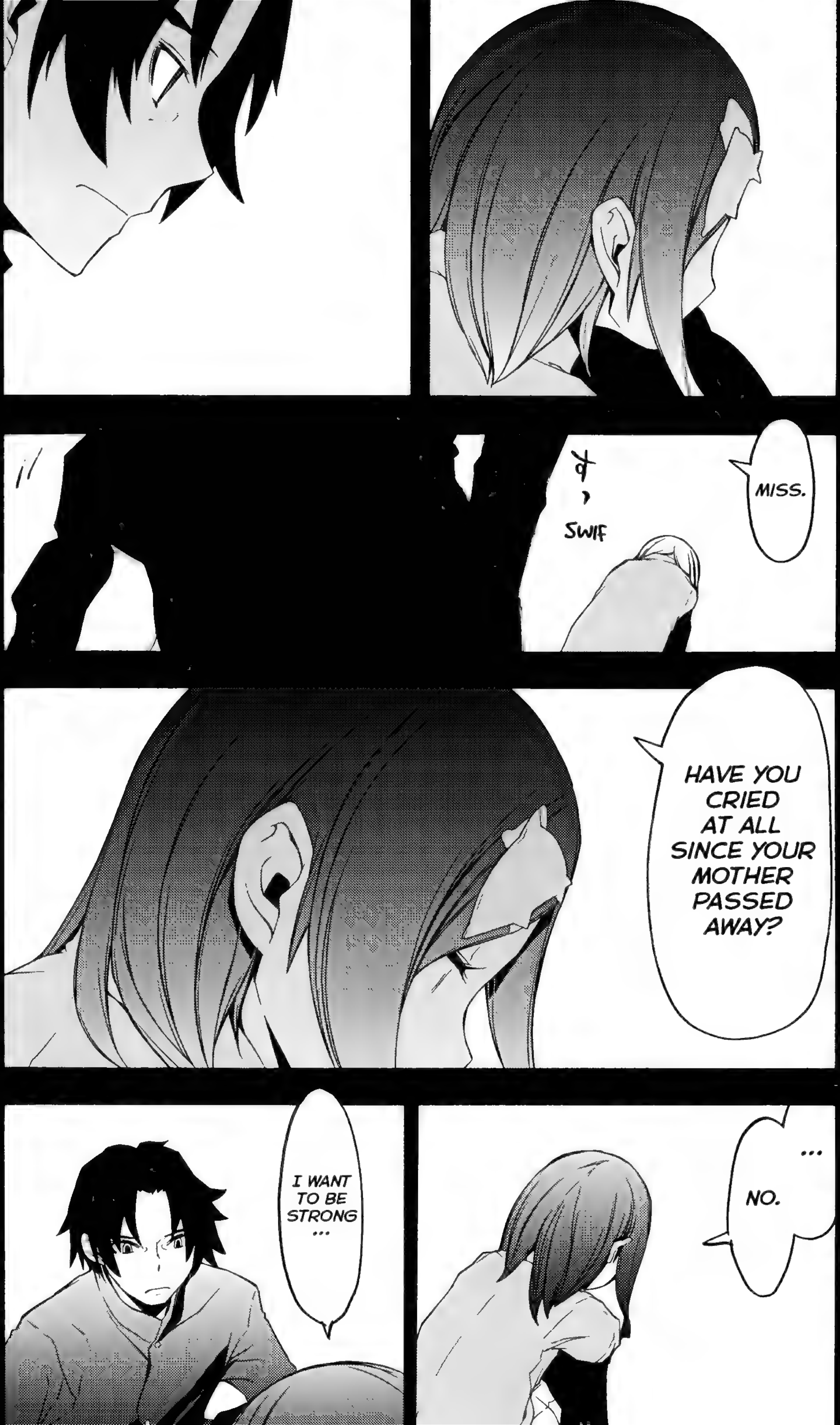

THE MASTER WOULD LIKE YOU TO WAIT IN THE DOJO IN THE MEANTIME.
I GUESS I SHOULD GET CHANGED, THEN.
ガチャ
CLACK
MISS IRUKA.
ONE MORE THING.
YOU STILL HAVE SOME SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS LEFT TO DO.
ENGLISH PROGRESS
PLEASE TAKE THEM WITH YOU TO TAKARAZUKA.
HUH?
BUT I WANT TO ENJOY THE PLAY WHILE I'M THERE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...
NO DISTRACTIONS...
NO BUTS!
YOU'LL BE FREE IN THE EVENING.
I WANT TO ENJOY MYSELF...
じー・・・
STARE
THE WONDER OF HISTORY
じぃ～・・・
STARE
THE WONDER

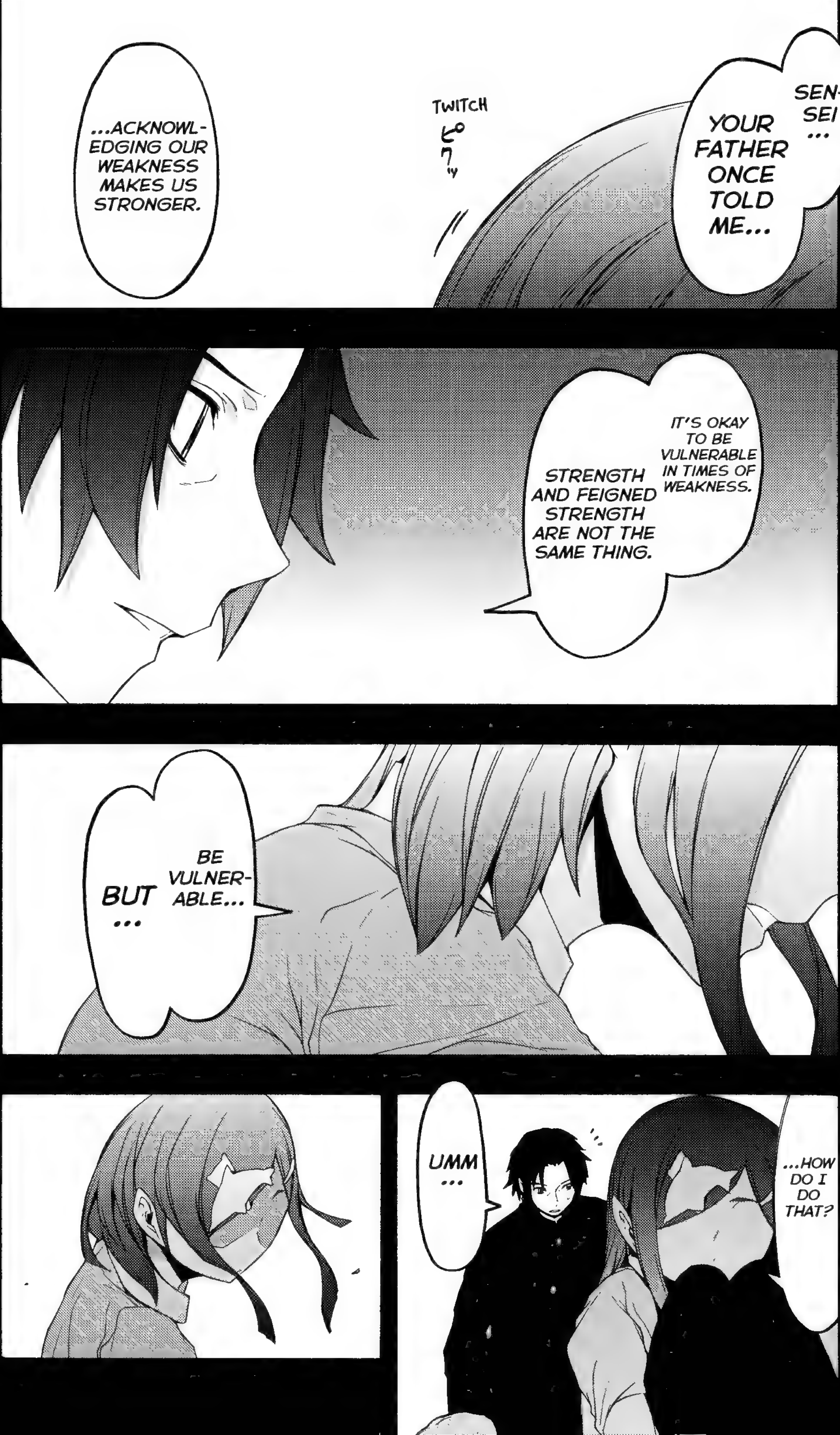

...VERY WELL! BUT I'LL MAKE SURE YOU DO THEM WHEN YOU RETURN!
WOO! PUSHOVER!
PUSHOVER!
OKAY, LET'S GET YOU CHANGED, MISS!
THOSE EYES...
I'M WEAK TO THOSE EYES.

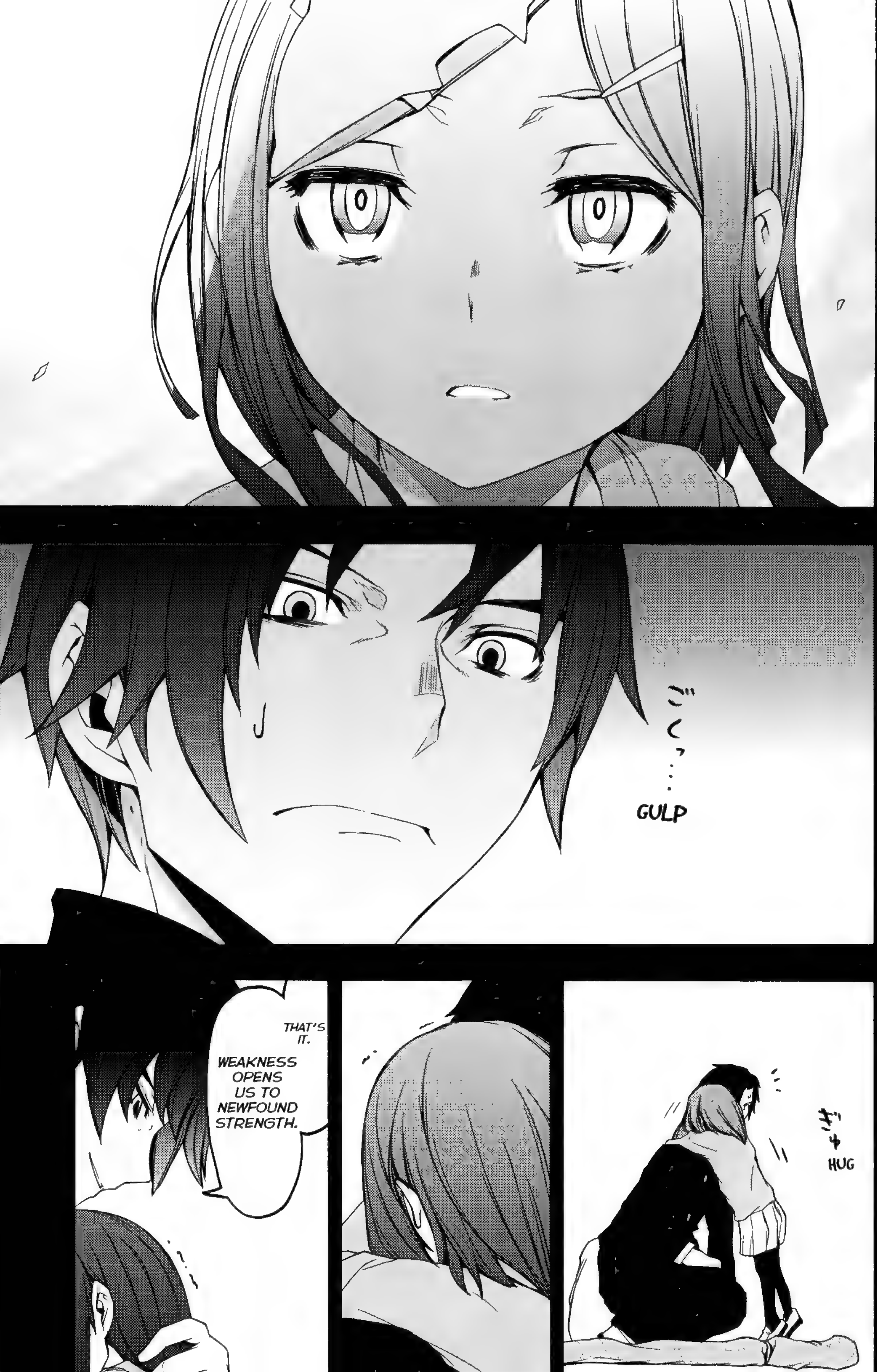

MISS.

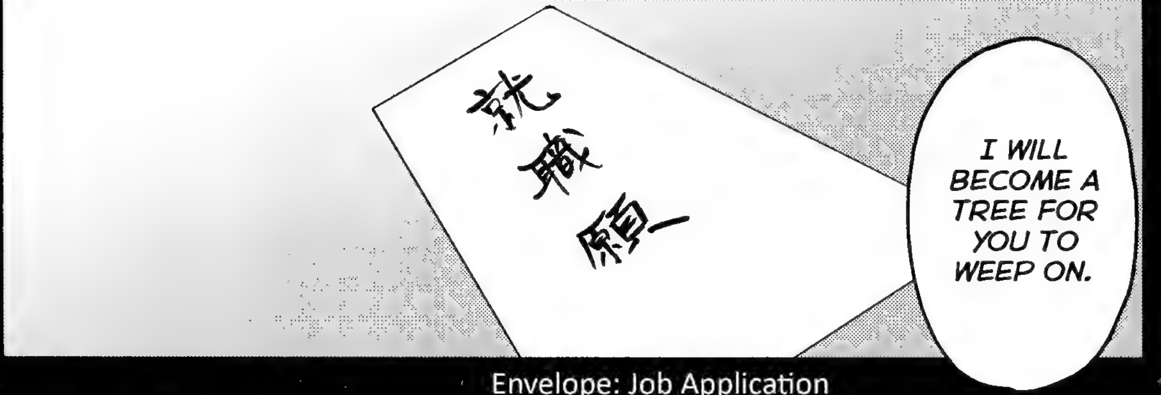

YOU'RE MY FATHER'S PUPIL...
YOU'RE BIG.
MY NAME IS IKUMA.
WHAT IS IT?
OH, NOTHING...
I CALLED OUT TO HER BECAUSE SHE SEEMED DOWN,
BUT OF COURSE SHE IS.
SHE LOST HER MOTHER AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
WHY WOULDN'T SHE BE SAD?
OF COURSE SHE IS...
MY MOTHER WAS A VERY STRONG-HEARTED WOMAN.


IF ONLY I COULD BE EVEN HALF AS STRONG...
...AS SHE WAS.
YOU CAN GROW STRONGER FROM NOW ON.
I'M SENSEI'S TOP DISCIPLE.
I'LL PROTECT YOU WITH THIS LARGE BODY OF MINE, MISS.
I GIVE YOU MY WORD!
... BUT ...
...EVEN IF YOU'RE STRONG, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I AM.
TH-THAT'S ...

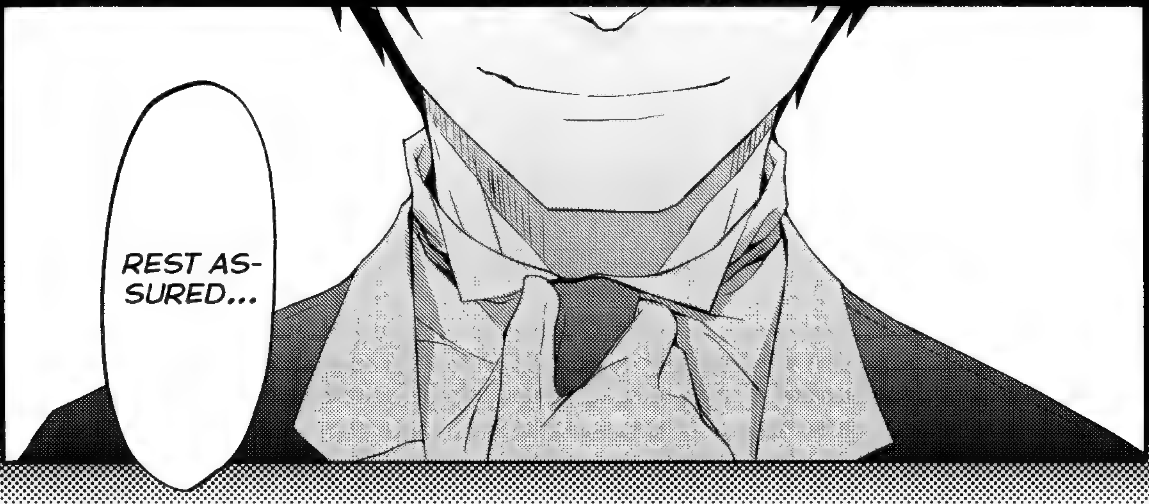

MISS.
す、
SWIF
HAVE YOU CRIED AT ALL SINCE YOUR MOTHER PASSED AWAY?
... NO.
I WANT TO BE STRONG ...

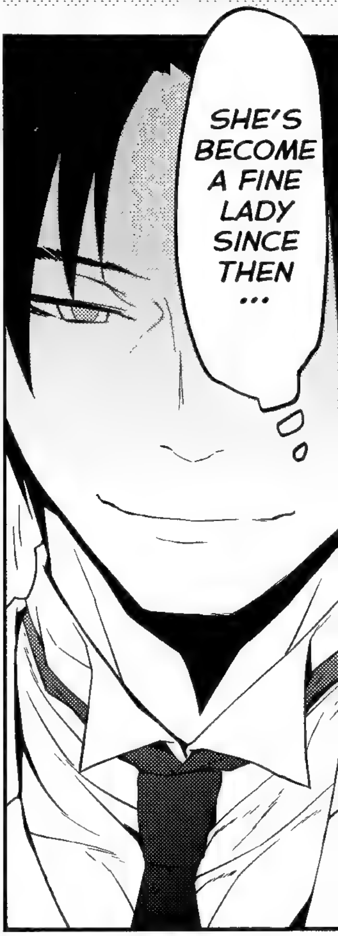

SENSEI... YOUR FATHER ONCE TOLD ME...
TWITCH ピクッ
...ACKNOWLEDGING OUR WEAKNESS MAKES US STRONGER.
IT'S OKAY TO BE VULNERABLE IN TIMES OF WEAKNESS.
STRENGTH AND FEIGNED STRENGTH ARE NOT THE SAME THING.
BE VULNERABLE...
BUT...
...HOW DO I DO THAT?
UMM...

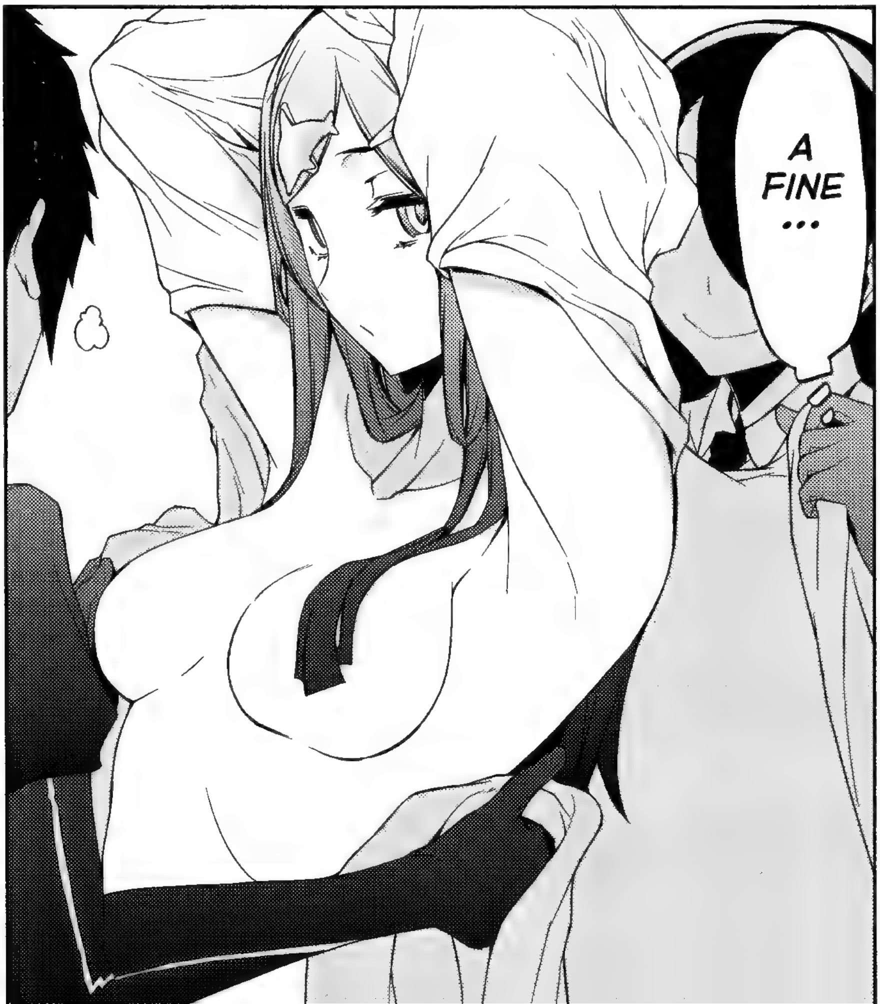

ごくっ…
GULP
ぎゅ
HUG
THAT'S IT.
WEAKNESS OPENS US TO NEWFOUND STRENGTH.

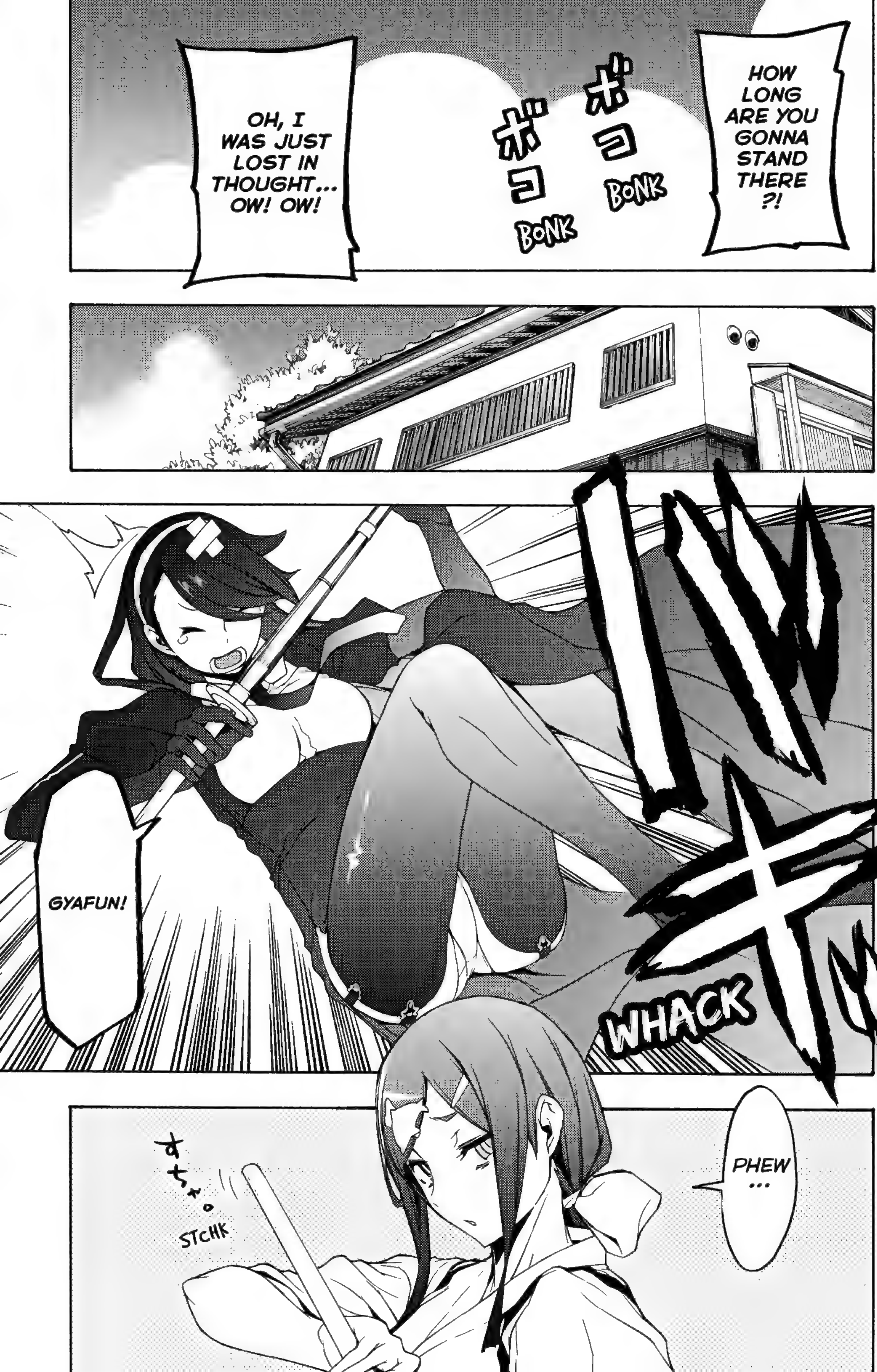

就職願
I WILL BECOME A TREE FOR YOU TO WEEP ON.

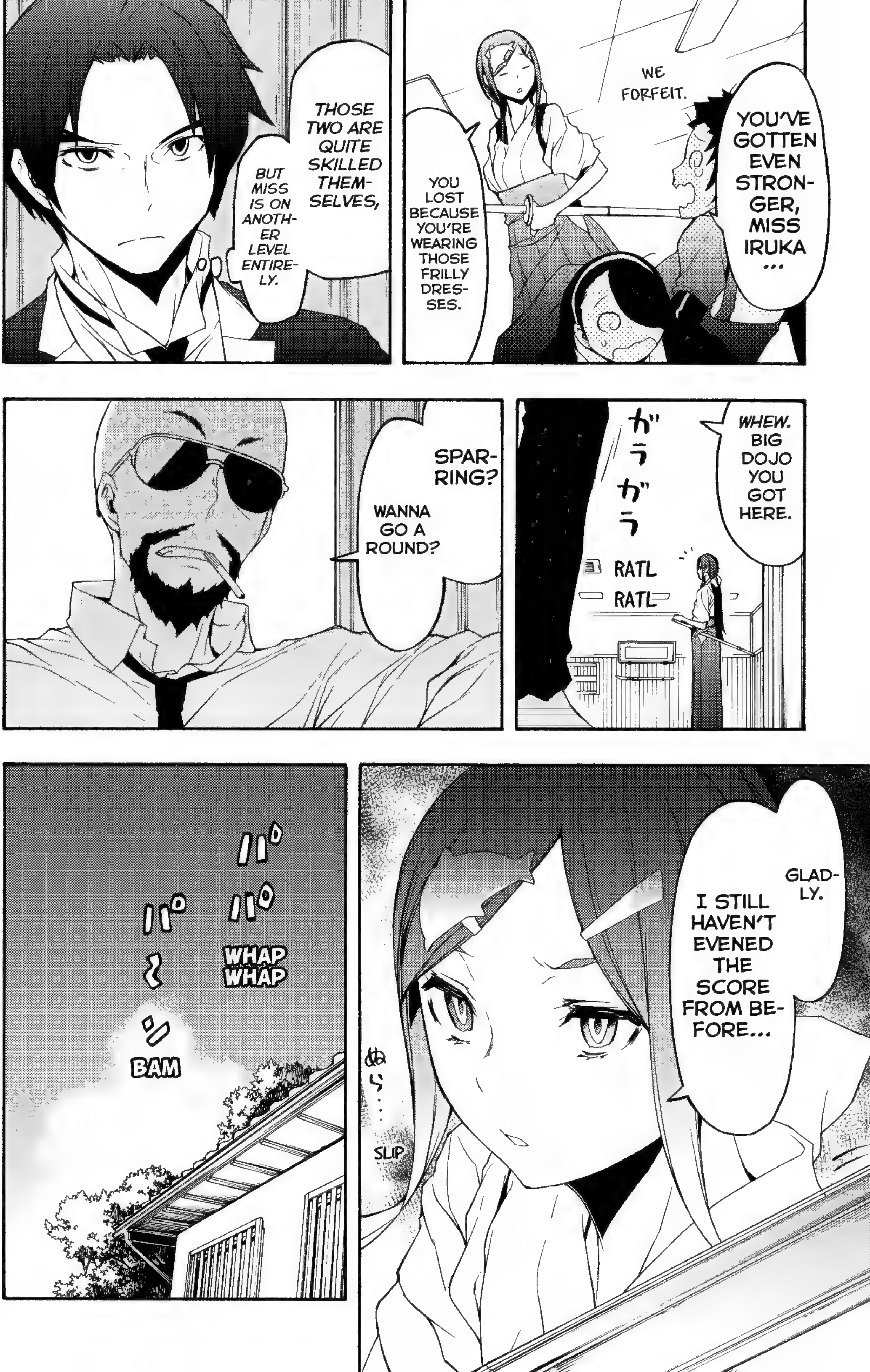
Envelope: Job Application

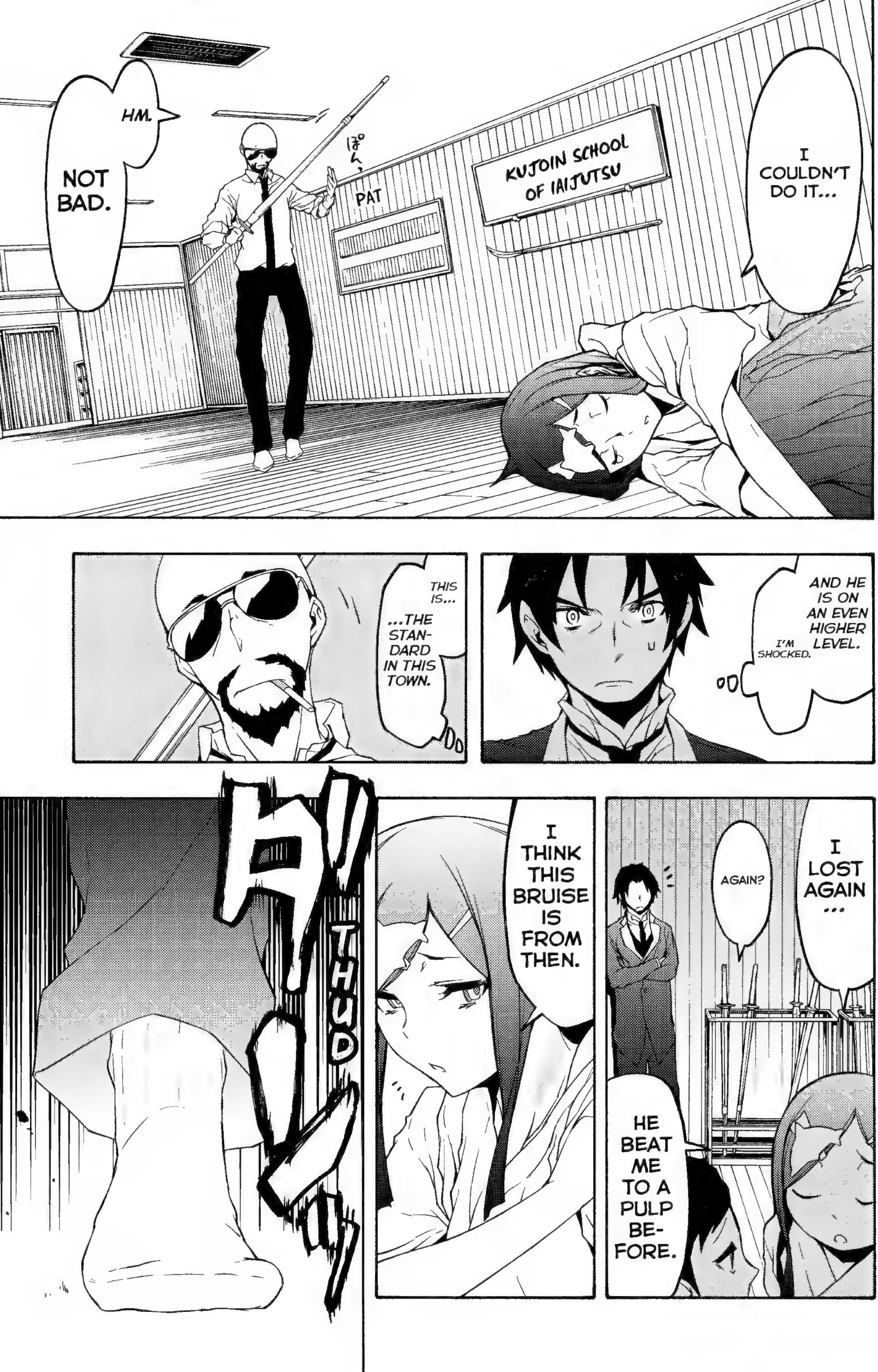

REST ASSURED...

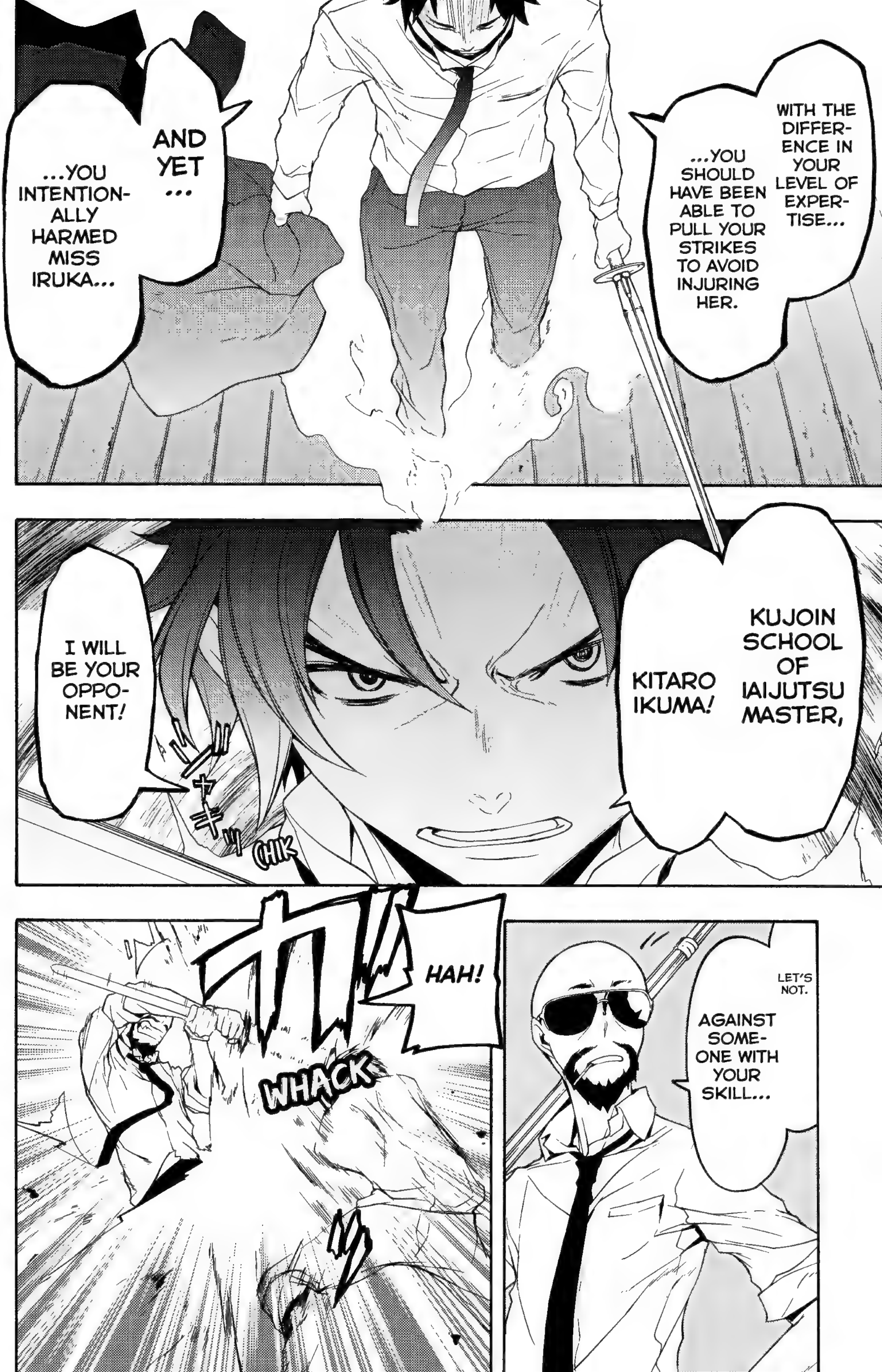

SHE'S BECOME A FINE LADY SINCE THEN...

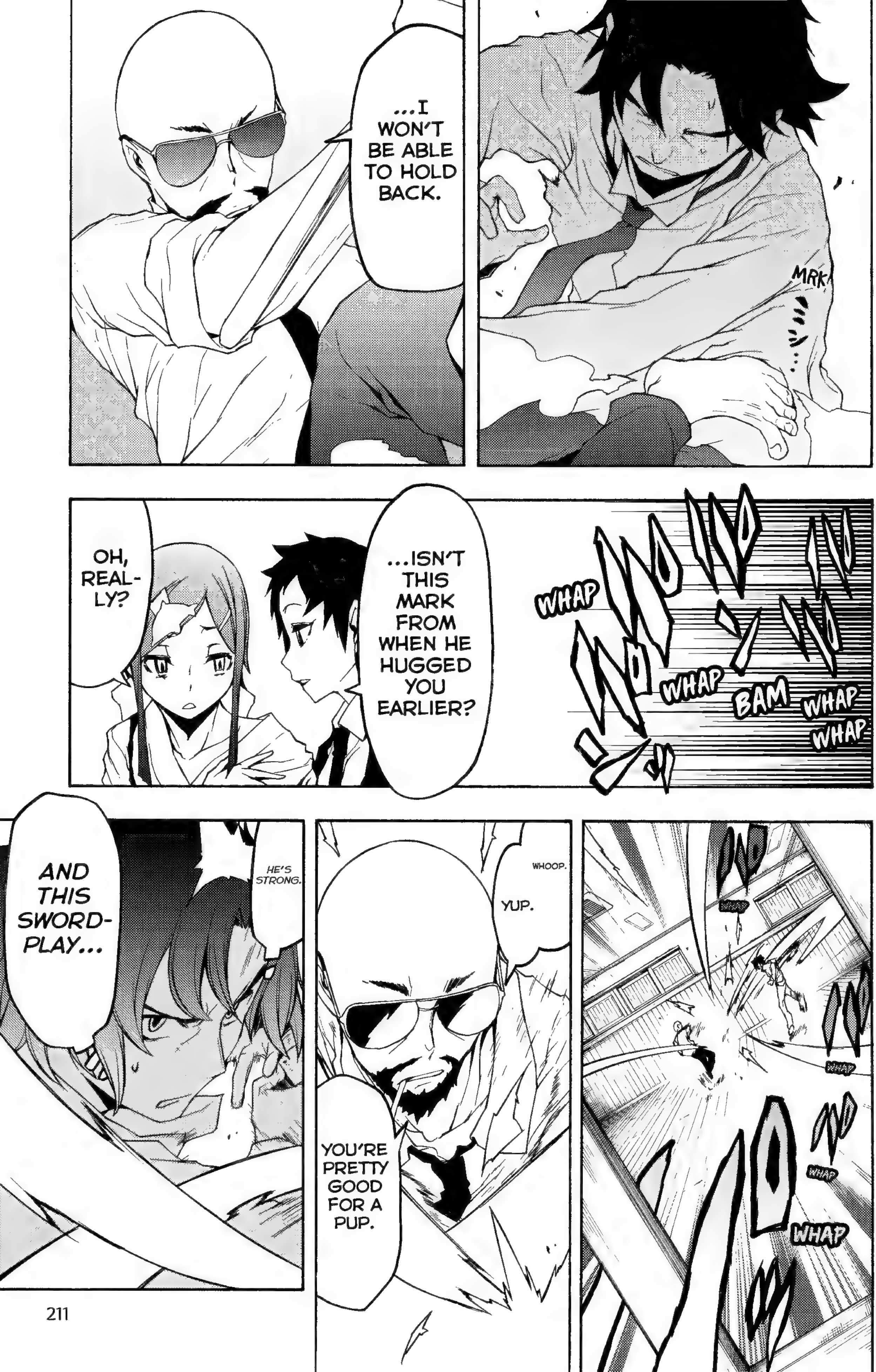


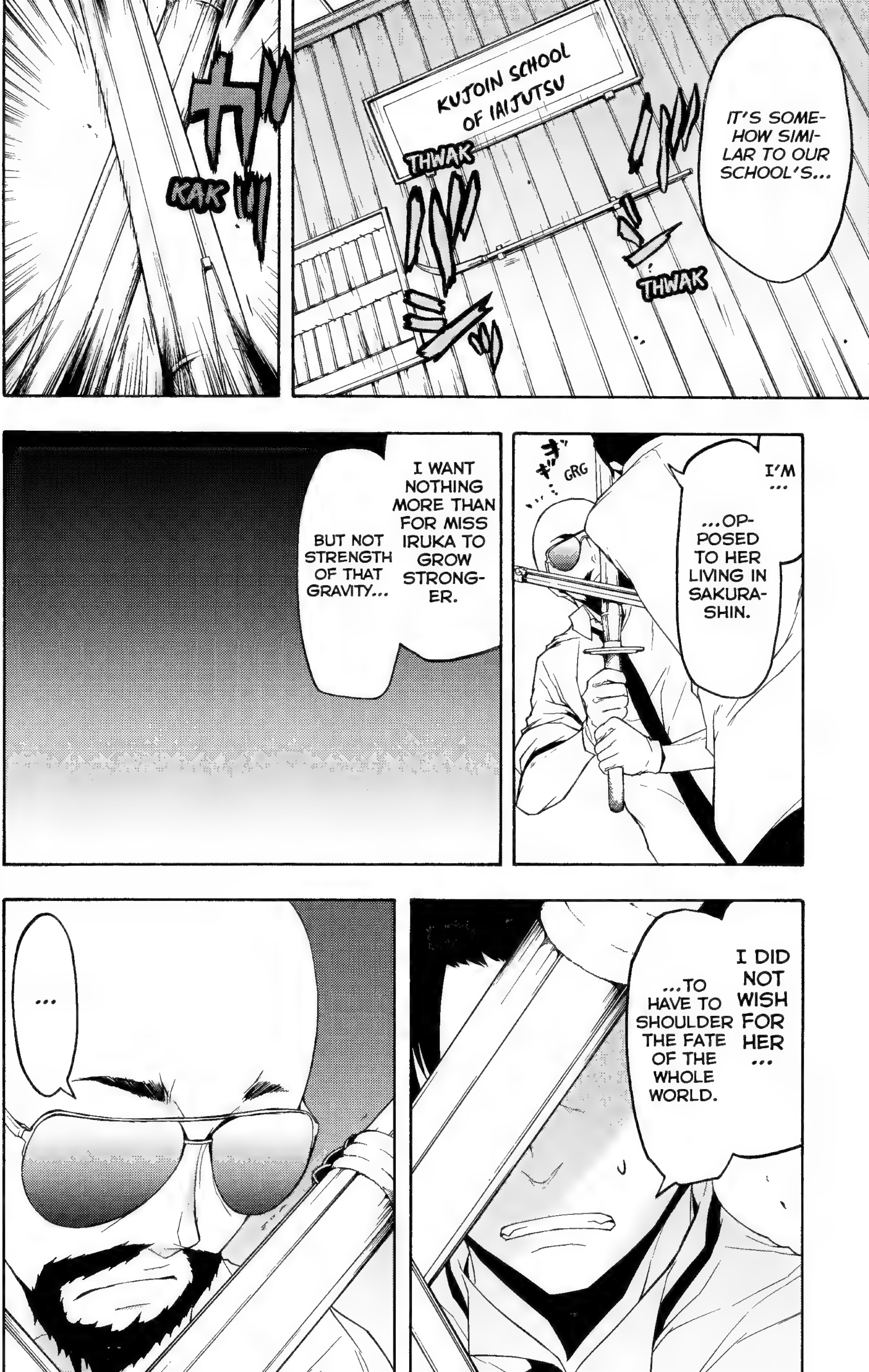

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA STAND THERE?!
ボコ
BONK
ボコ
BONK
OH, I WAS JUST LOST IN THOUGHT... OW! OW!
WHACK
GYAFUN!
PHEW...
すちゃ。
STCHK

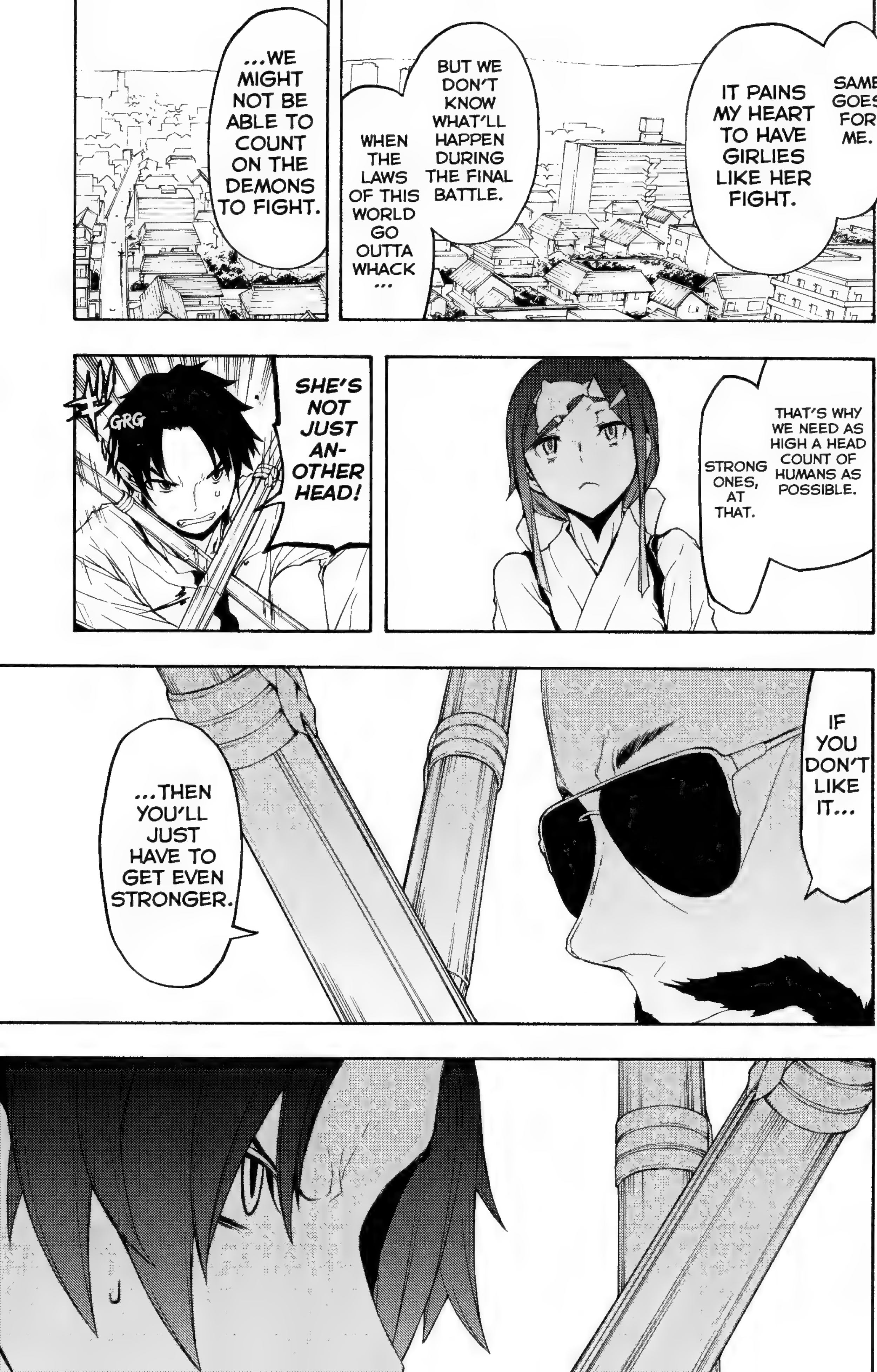

YOU'VE GOTTEN EVEN STRONGER, MISS IRUKA...
WE FORFEIT.
YOU LOST BECAUSE YOU'RE WEARING THOSE FRILLY DRESSES.
THOSE TWO ARE QUITE SKILLED THEMSELVES,
BUT MISS IS ON ANOTHER LEVEL ENTIRELY.
WHEW. BIG DOJO YOU GOT HERE.
ガラガラ
RATL RATL
SPARRING?
WANNA GO A ROUND?
GLADLY.
I STILL HAVEN'T EVENED THE SCORE FROM BEFORE...
ぬら…
SLIP
パパパ〜ン
WHAP WHAP
BAM

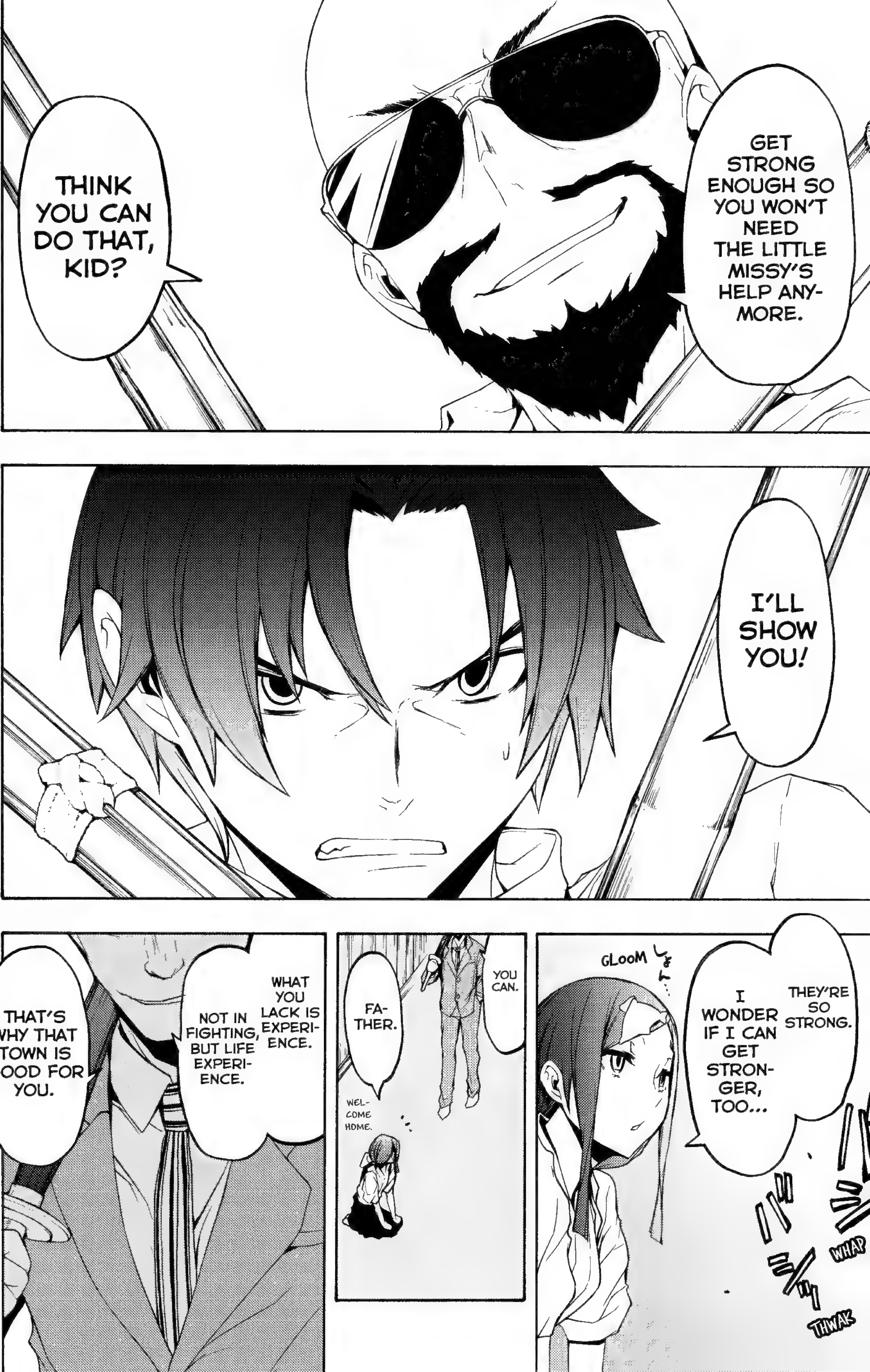

I COULDN'T DO IT...
KUJOIN SCHOOL OF IAIJUTSU
ぽん
PAT
HM.
NOT BAD.
AND HE IS ON AN EVEN HIGHER LEVEL.
I'M SHOCKED.
THIS IS...
...THE STANDARD IN THIS TOWN.
I LOST AGAIN...
AGAIN?
HE BEAT ME TO A PULP BEFORE.
I THINK THIS BRUISE IS FROM THEN.
ドッ
THUD

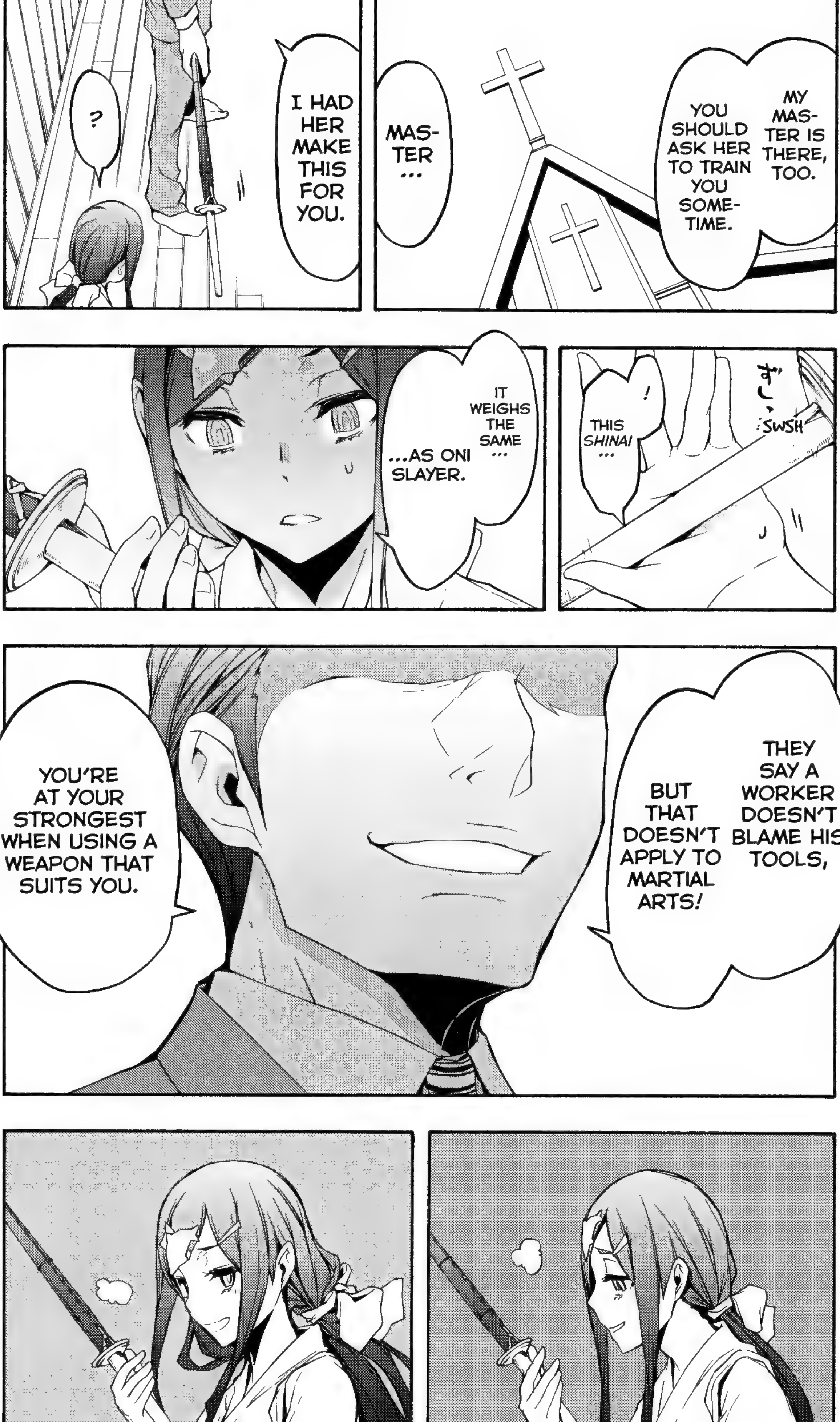

WITH THE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LEVEL OF EXPERTISE...
...YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PULL YOUR STRIKES TO AVOID INJURING HER.
AND YET...
...YOU INTENTIONALLY HARMED MISS IRUKA...
KUJOIN SCHOOL OF IAIJUTSU MASTER,
KITARO IKUMA!
I WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT!
CHIK
LET'S NOT.
AGAINST SOMEONE WITH YOUR SKILL...
HAH!
WHACK

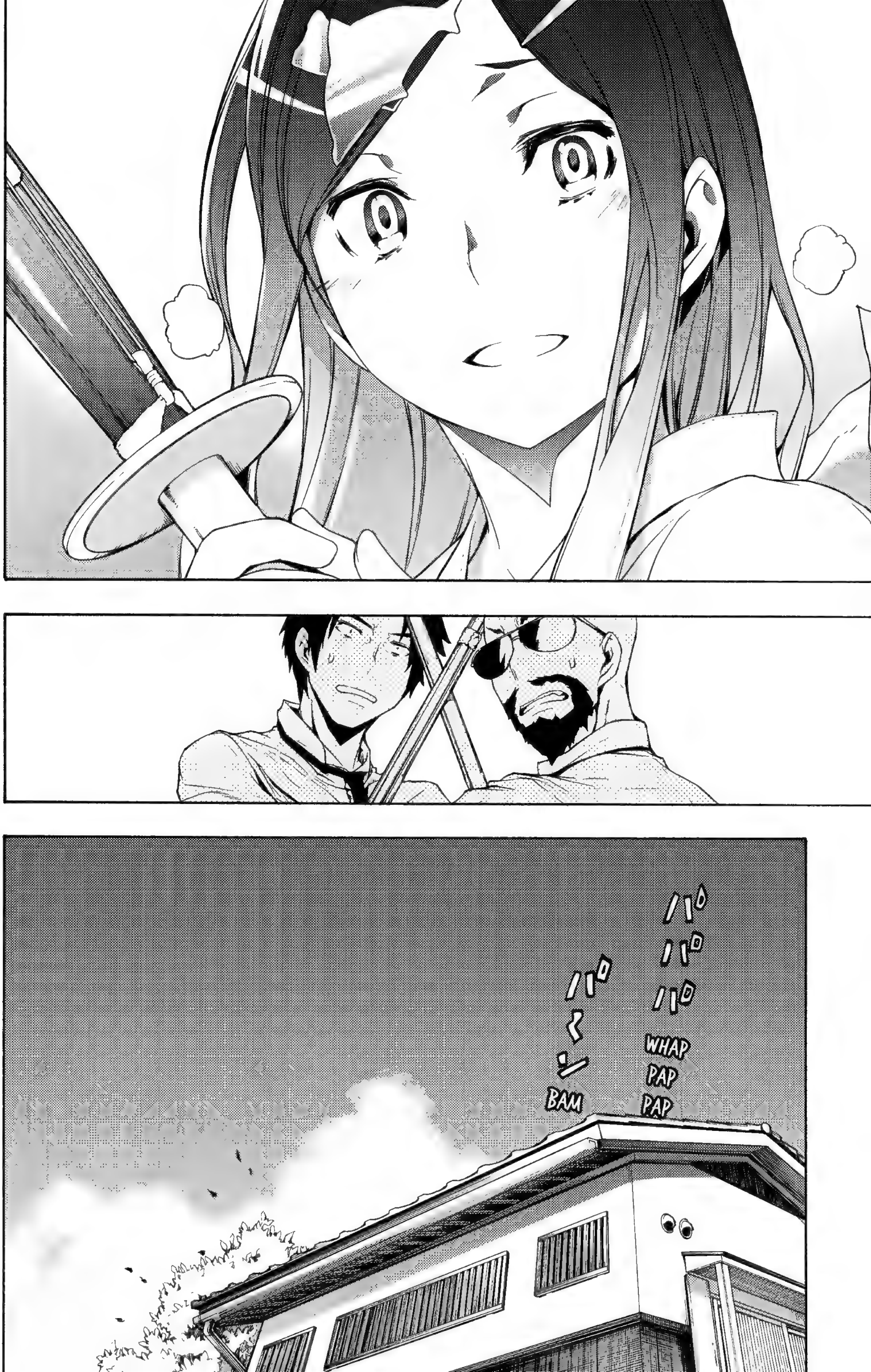

MRK
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD BACK.
WHAP
WHAP
BAM
WHAP
WHAP
...ISN'T THIS MARK FROM WHEN HE HUGGED YOU EARLIER?
OH, REALLY?
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
WHAP
WHOOP.
YUP.
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD FOR A PUP.
HE'S STRONG.
AND THIS SWORDPLAY...

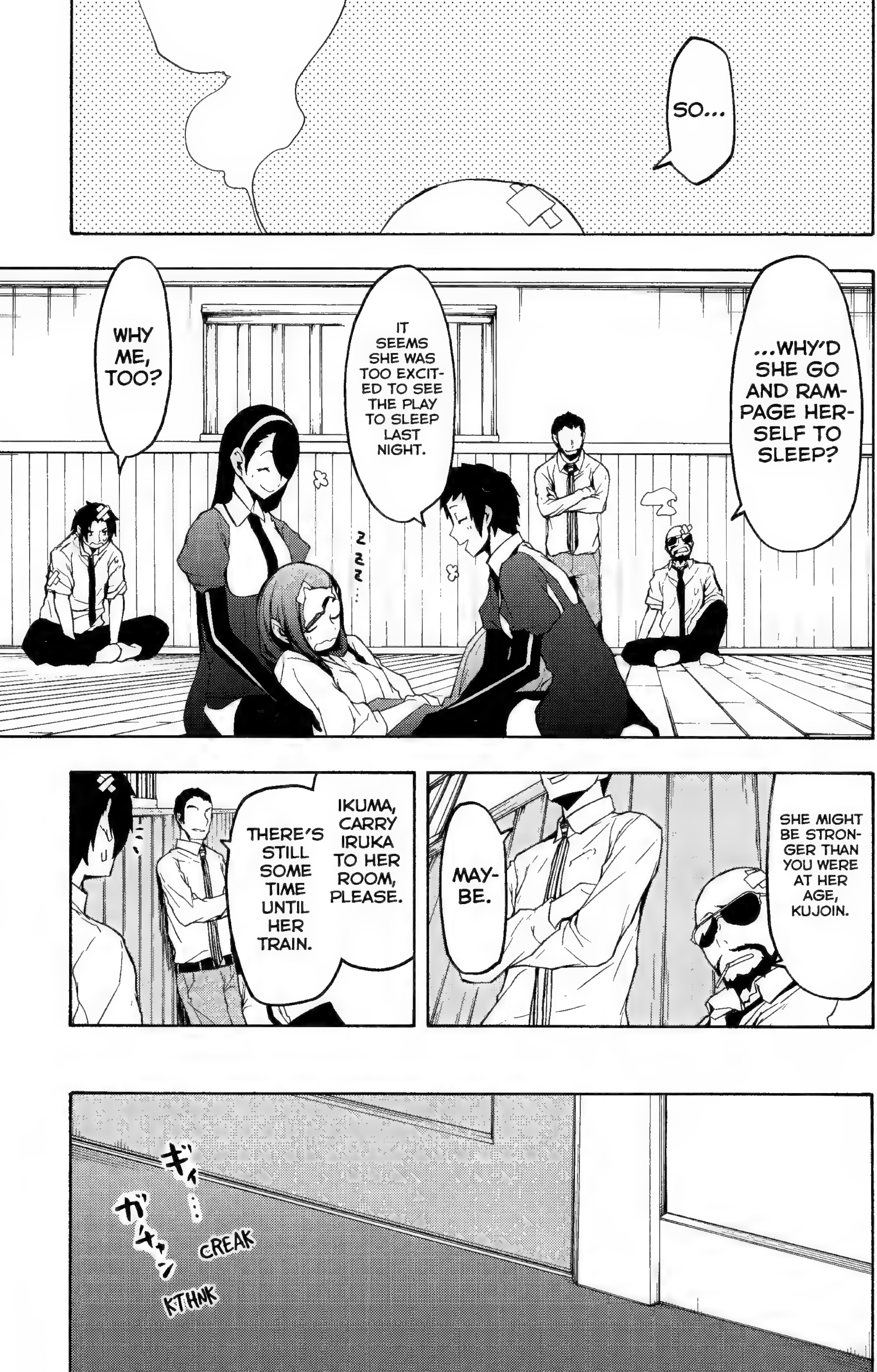

KUJOIN SCHOOL OF IAIJUTSU
THWAK
THWAK
IT'S SOMEHOW SIMILAR TO OUR SCHOOL'S...
KAK
GRG
I'M...
...OPPOSED TO HER LIVING IN SAKURASHIN.
I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN FOR MISS IRUKA TO GROW STRONGER.
BUT NOT STRENGTH OF THAT GRAVITY...
I DID NOT WISH FOR HER...
...TO HAVE TO SHOULDER THE FATE OF THE WHOLE WORLD.
...

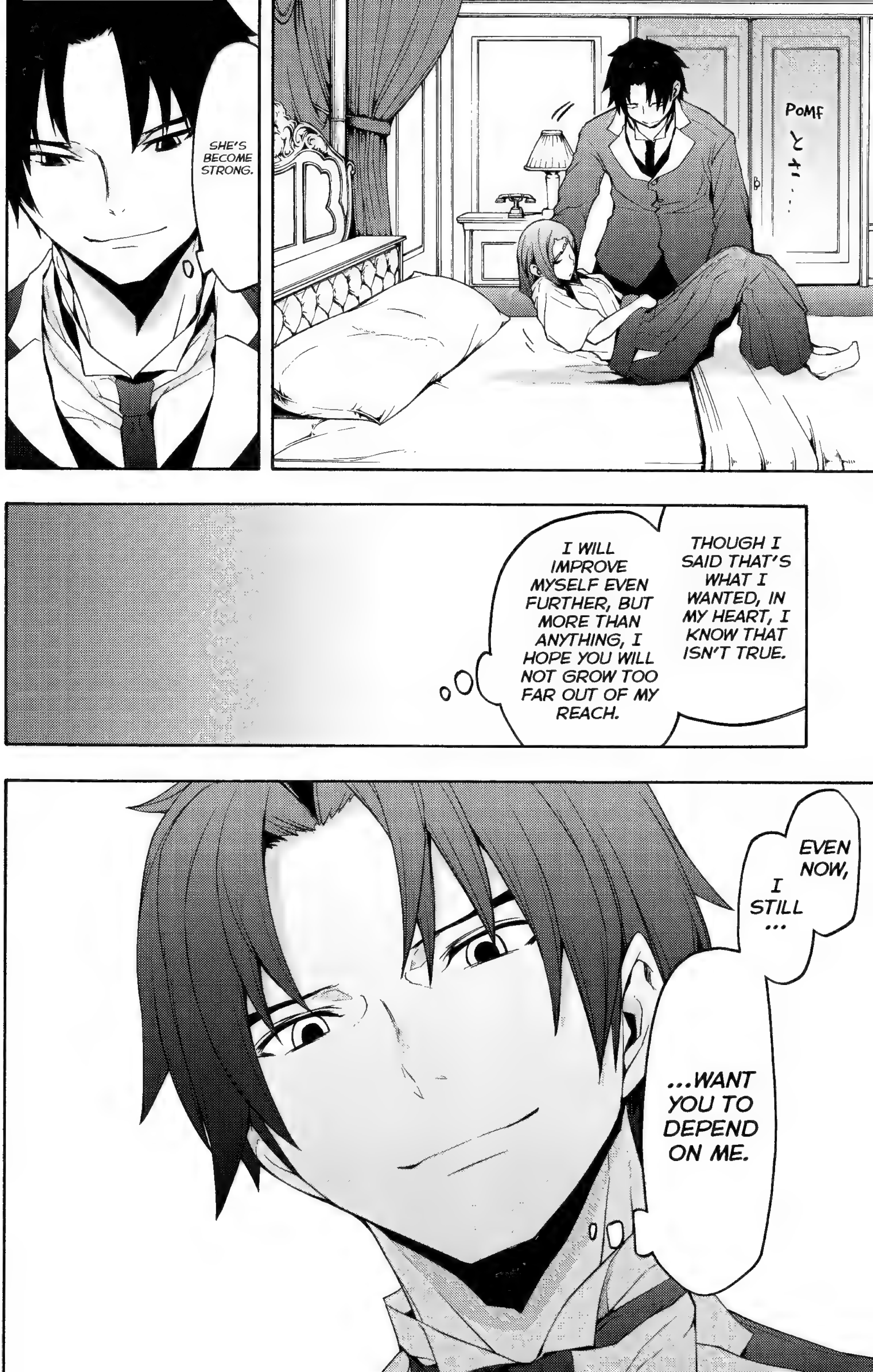

IT PAINS MY HEART TO HAVE GIRLIES LIKE HER FIGHT.
SAME GOES FOR ME.
BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN DURING THE FINAL BATTLE.
WHEN THE LAWS OF THIS WORLD GO OUTTA WHACK...
...WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE DEMONS TO FIGHT.
THAT'S WHY WE NEED AS HIGH A HEAD COUNT OF HUMANS AS POSSIBLE.
STRONG ONES, AT THAT.
GRG
SHE'S NOT JUST ANOTHER HEAD!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT...
...THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO GET EVEN STRONGER.

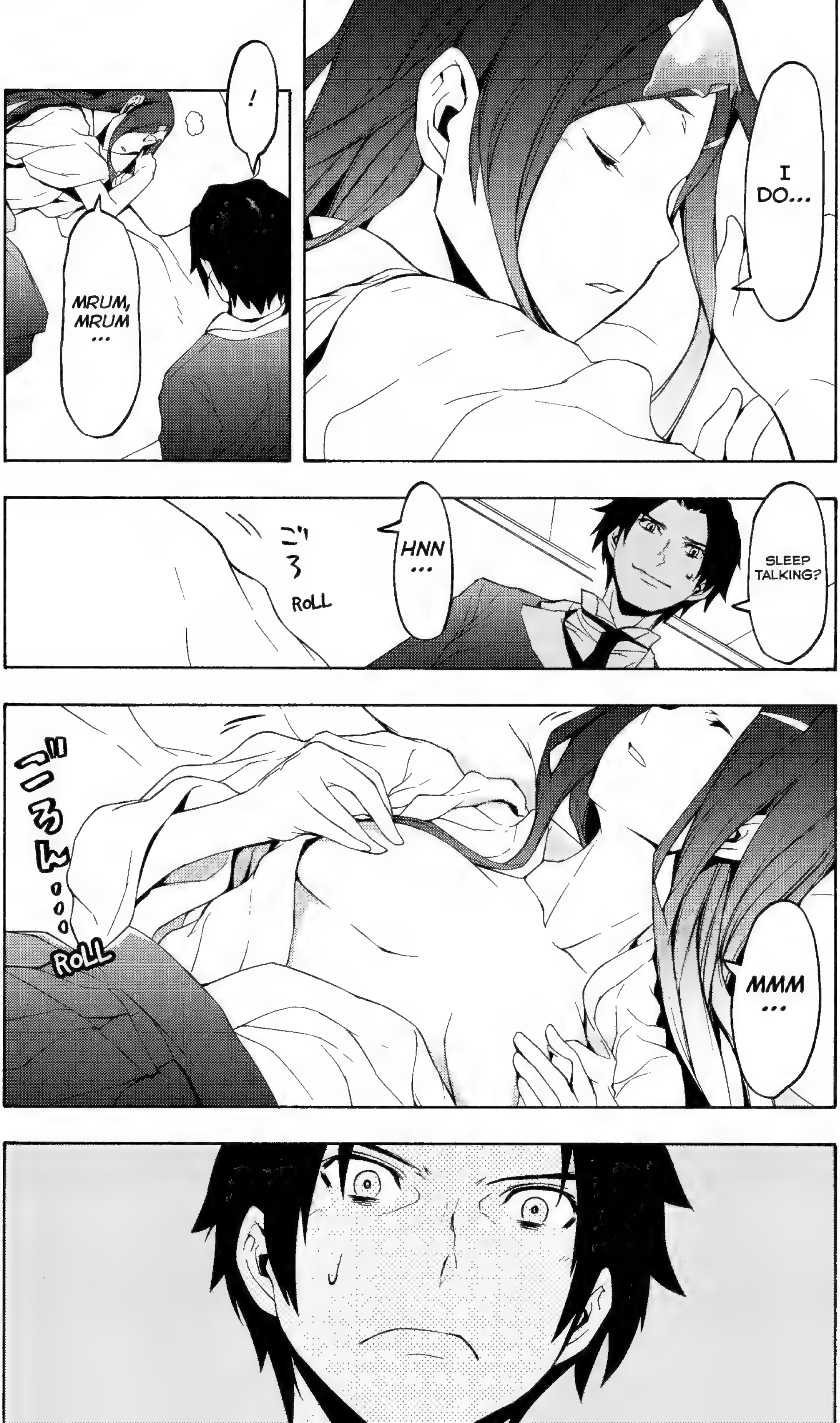

GET STRONG ENOUGH SO YOU WON'T NEED THE LITTLE MISSY'S HELP ANYMORE.
THINK YOU CAN DO THAT, KID?
I'LL SHOW YOU!
GLOOM
THEY'RE SO STRONG.
I WONDER IF I CAN GET STRONGER, TOO...
WHAP
THWAK
YOU CAN.
FATHER.
WELCOME HOME.
WHAT YOU LACK IS EXPERIENCE.
NOT IN FIGHTING, BUT LIFE EXPERIENCE.
THAT'S WHY THAT TOWN IS GOOD FOR YOU.

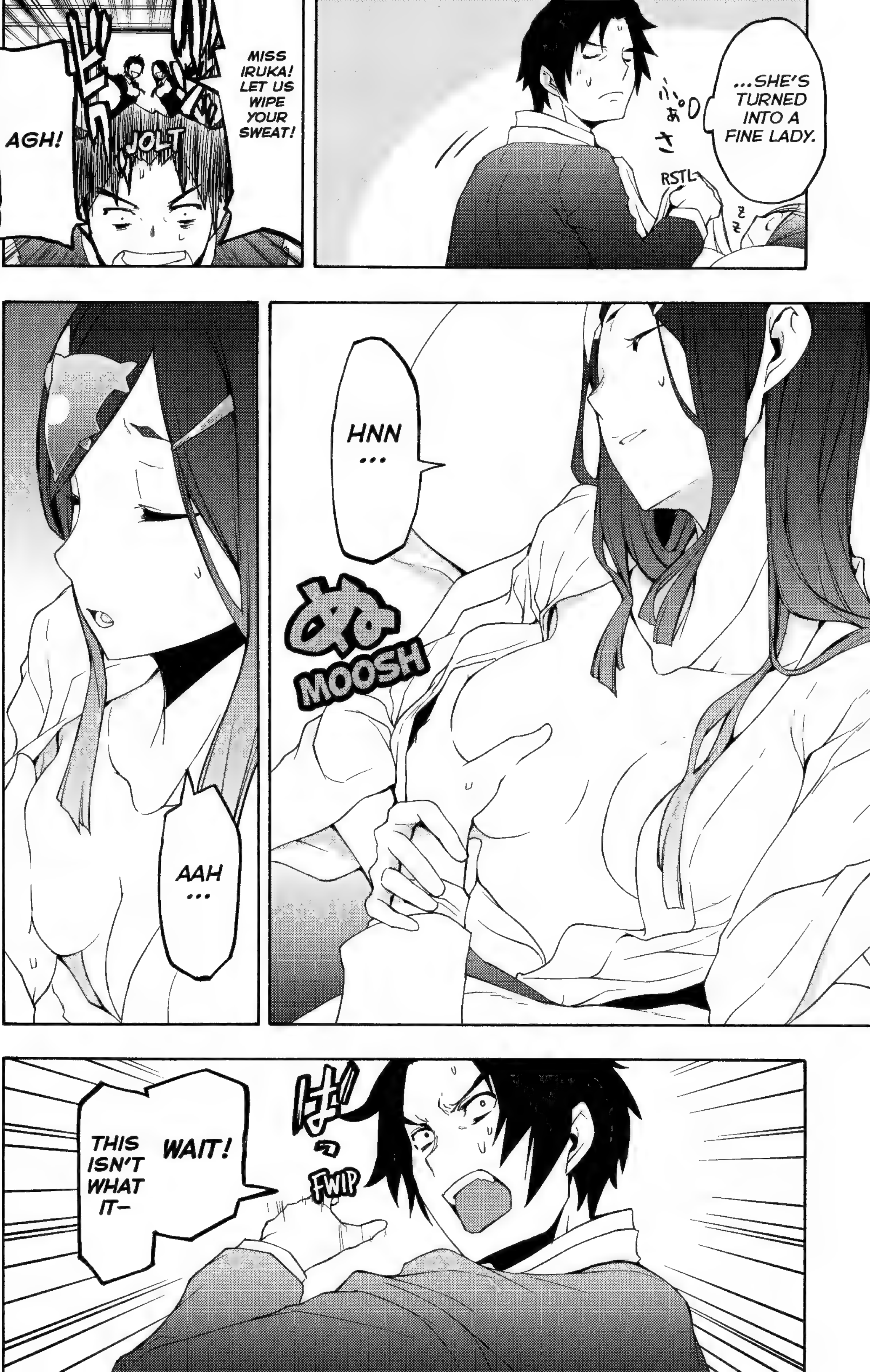

MY MASTER IS THERE, TOO.
YOU SHOULD ASK HER TO TRAIN YOU SOMETIME.
MASTER...
I HAD HER MAKE THIS FOR YOU.
?
ずし、 SWSH
!
THIS *SHINAI*...
IT WEIGHS THE SAME...
...AS ONI SLAYER.
THEY SAY A WORKER DOESN'T BLAME HIS TOOLS,
BUT THAT DOESN'T APPLY TO MARTIAL ARTS!
YOU'RE AT YOUR STRONGEST WHEN USING A WEAPON THAT SUITS YOU.

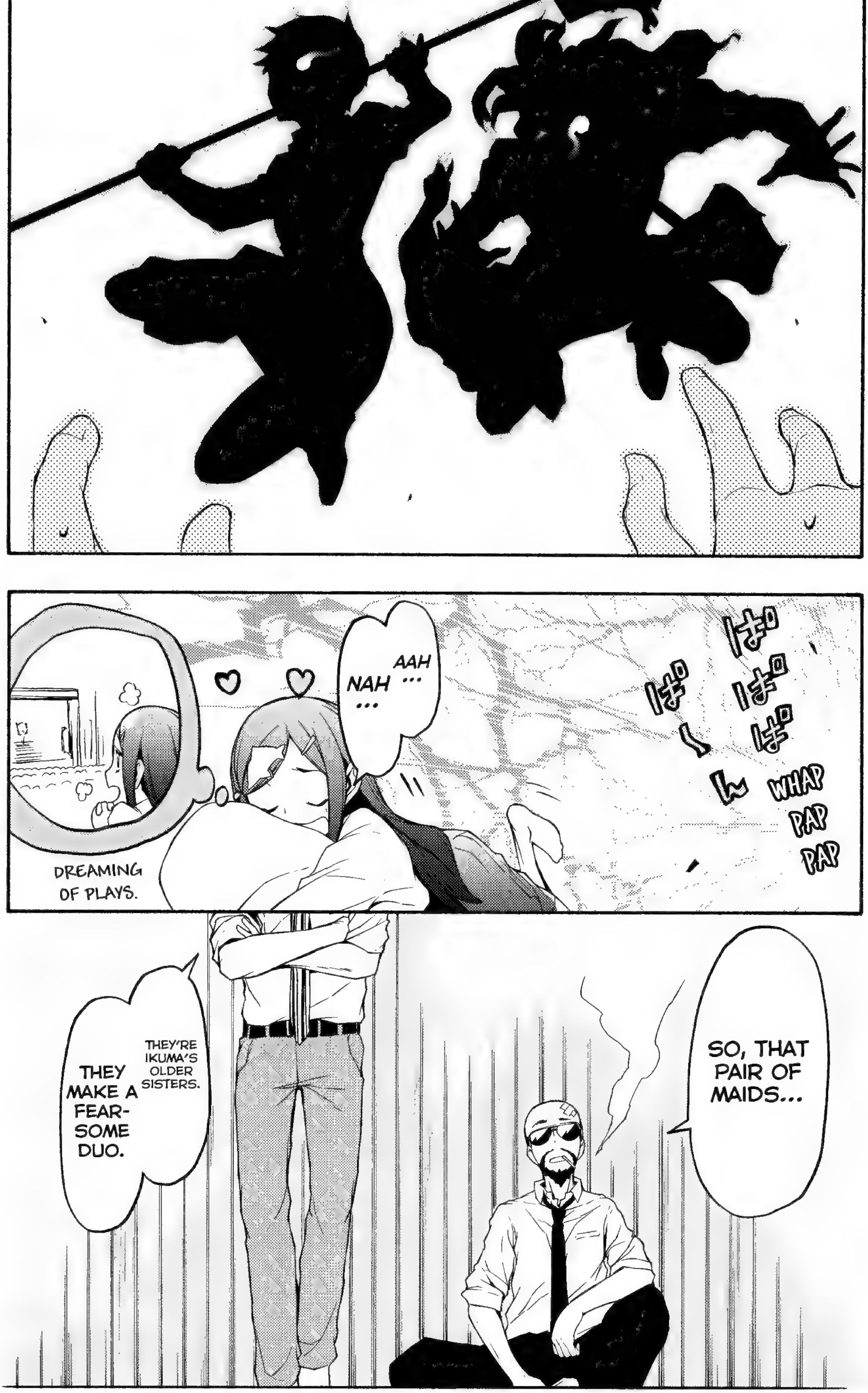

パパパ
WHAP PAP PAP
パくン
BAM


SO...
...WHY'D SHE GO AND RAMPAGE HERSELF TO SLEEP?
IT SEEMS SHE WAS TOO EXCITED TO SEE THE PLAY TO SLEEP LAST NIGHT.
WHY ME, TOO?
Z Z Z...
SHE MIGHT BE STRONGER THAN YOU WERE AT HER AGE, KUJOIN.
MAYBE.
IKUMA, CARRY IRUKA TO HER ROOM, PLEASE.
THERE'S STILL SOME TIME UNTIL HER TRAIN.
ギィ…
CREAK
ガチャン
KTHNK

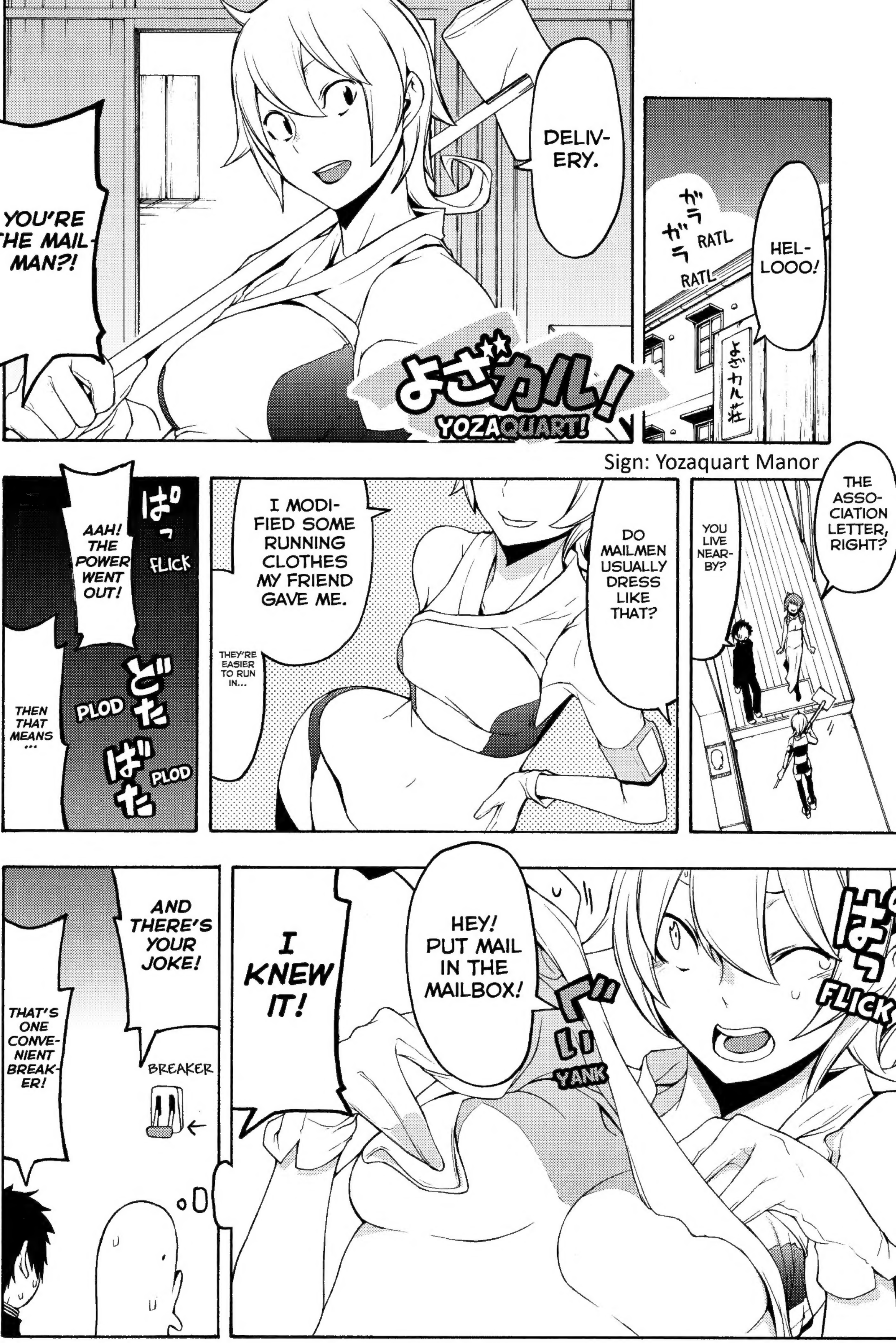

POMF
とさ・・・
SHE'S BECOME STRONG.
THOUGH I SAID THAT'S WHAT I WANTED, IN MY HEART, I KNOW THAT ISN'T TRUE.
I WILL IMPROVE MYSELF EVEN FURTHER, BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING, I HOPE YOU WILL NOT GROW TOO FAR OUT OF MY REACH.
EVEN NOW, I STILL...
...WANT YOU TO DEPEND ON ME.


I DO...
!
MRUM, MRUM...
SLEEP TALKING?
HNN...
ごろ
ROLL
MMM...
ごーろん。。。
ROLL


...SHE'S TURNED INTO A FINE LADY.
ぷぁさ
RSTL
MISS IRUKA! LET US WIPE YOUR SWEAT!
JOLT
AGH!
HNN...
ぬ
MOOSH
AAH...
ばっ
FWIP
WAIT!
THIS ISN'T WHAT IT–

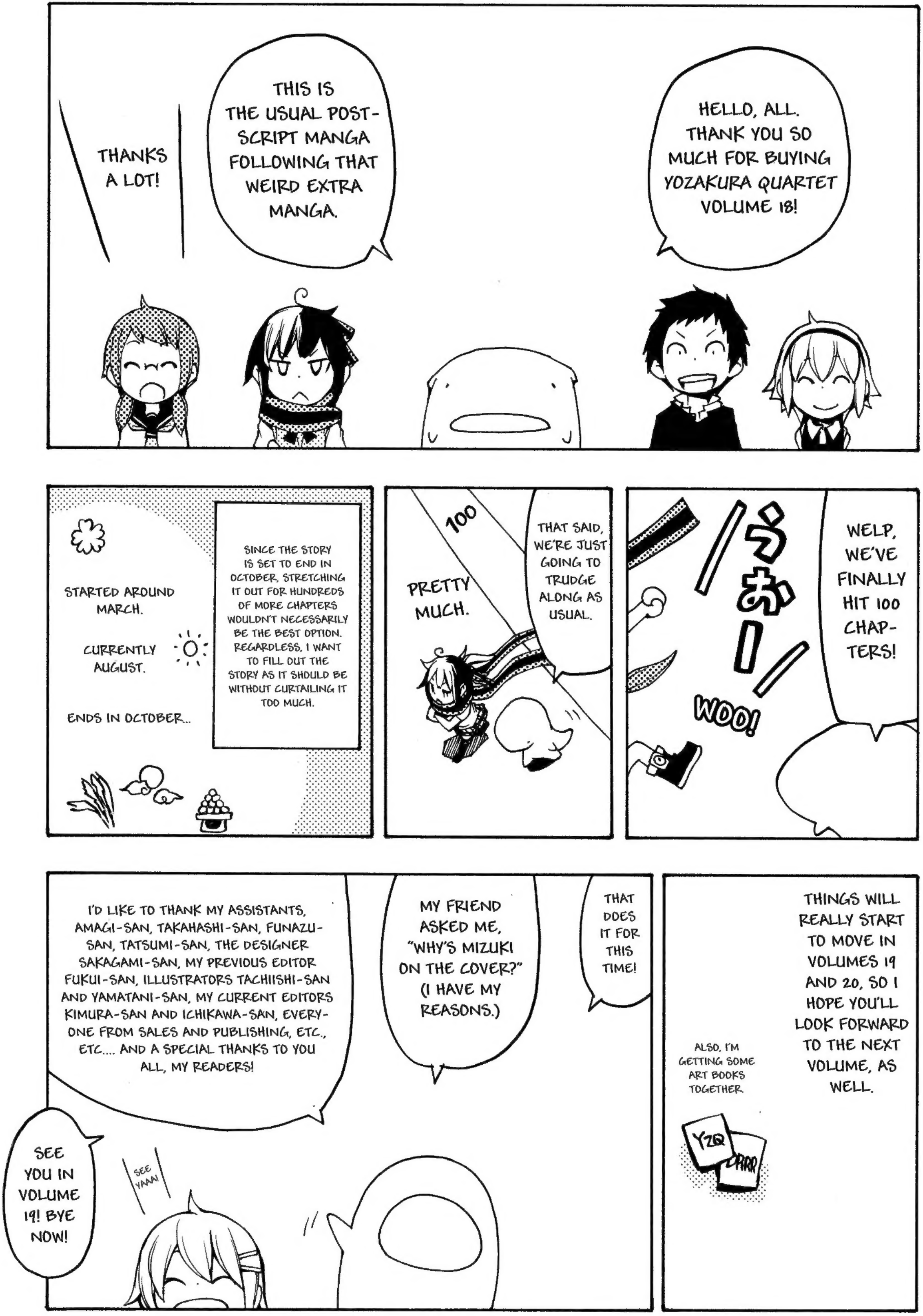

ぱぱぱ
ぱ〜ん
WHAP PAP PAP
AAH... NAH...
DREAMING OF PLAYS.
SO, THAT PAIR OF MAIDS...
THEY'RE IKUMA'S OLDER SISTERS.
THEY MAKE A FEARSOME DUO.

END


HEL-LOOO!
ガラ ガラ
RATL RATL
よざカル荘
DELIVERY.
YOU'RE THE MAILMAN?!
よざカル!
YOZAQUART!
THE ASSOCIATION LETTER, RIGHT?
YOU LIVE NEARBY?
DO MAILMEN USUALLY DRESS LIKE THAT?
I MODIFIED SOME RUNNING CLOTHES MY FRIEND GAVE ME.
THEY'RE EASIER TO RUN IN...
ぱっ
FLICK
AAH! THE POWER WENT OUT!
どたばた
PLOD PLOD
THEN THAT MEANS...
ぱっ
FLICK
ぐい
YANK
HEY! PUT MAIL IN THE MAILBOX!
I KNEW IT!
AND THERE'S YOUR JOKE!
BREAKER
THAT'S ONE CONVENIENT BREAKER!

Sign: Yozaquart Manor

POSTSCRIPT MANGA


HELLO, ALL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BUYING YOZAKURA QUARTET VOLUME 18!
THIS IS THE USUAL POSTSCRIPT MANGA FOLLOWING THAT WEIRD EXTRA MANGA.
THANKS A LOT!
WELP, WE'VE FINALLY HIT 100 CHAPTERS!
うおー
WOO!
THAT SAID, WE'RE JUST GOING TO TRUDGE ALONG AS USUAL.
100
PRETTY MUCH.
SINCE THE STORY IS SET TO END IN OCTOBER, STRETCHING IT OUT FOR HUNDREDS OF MORE CHAPTERS WOULDN'T NECESSARILY BE THE BEST OPTION. REGARDLESS, I WANT TO FILL OUT THE STORY AS IT SHOULD BE WITHOUT CURTAILING IT TOO MUCH.
STARTED AROUND MARCH.
CURRENTLY AUGUST.
ENDS IN OCTOBER...
THINGS WILL REALLY START TO MOVE IN VOLUMES 19 AND 20, SO I HOPE YOU'LL LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT VOLUME, AS WELL.
ALSO, I'M GETTING SOME ART BOOKS TOGETHER
YZQ
DRRR
THAT DOES IT FOR THIS TIME!
MY FRIEND ASKED ME, "WHY'S MIZUKI ON THE COVER?" (I HAVE MY REASONS.)
I'D LIKE TO THANK MY ASSISTANTS, AMAGI-SAN, TAKAHASHI-SAN, FUNAZU-SAN, TATSUMI-SAN, THE DESIGNER SAKAGAMI-SAN, MY PREVIOUS EDITOR FUKUI-SAN, ILLUSTRATORS TACHIISHI-SAN AND YAMATANI-SAN, MY CURRENT EDITORS KIMURA-SAN AND ICHIKAWA-SAN, EVERYONE FROM SALES AND PUBLISHING, ETC., ETC.... AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU ALL, MY READERS!
SEE YAAA!
SEE YOU IN VOLUME 19! BYE NOW!

Yozakura Quartet 18

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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